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On Imposture in  
Medicine.

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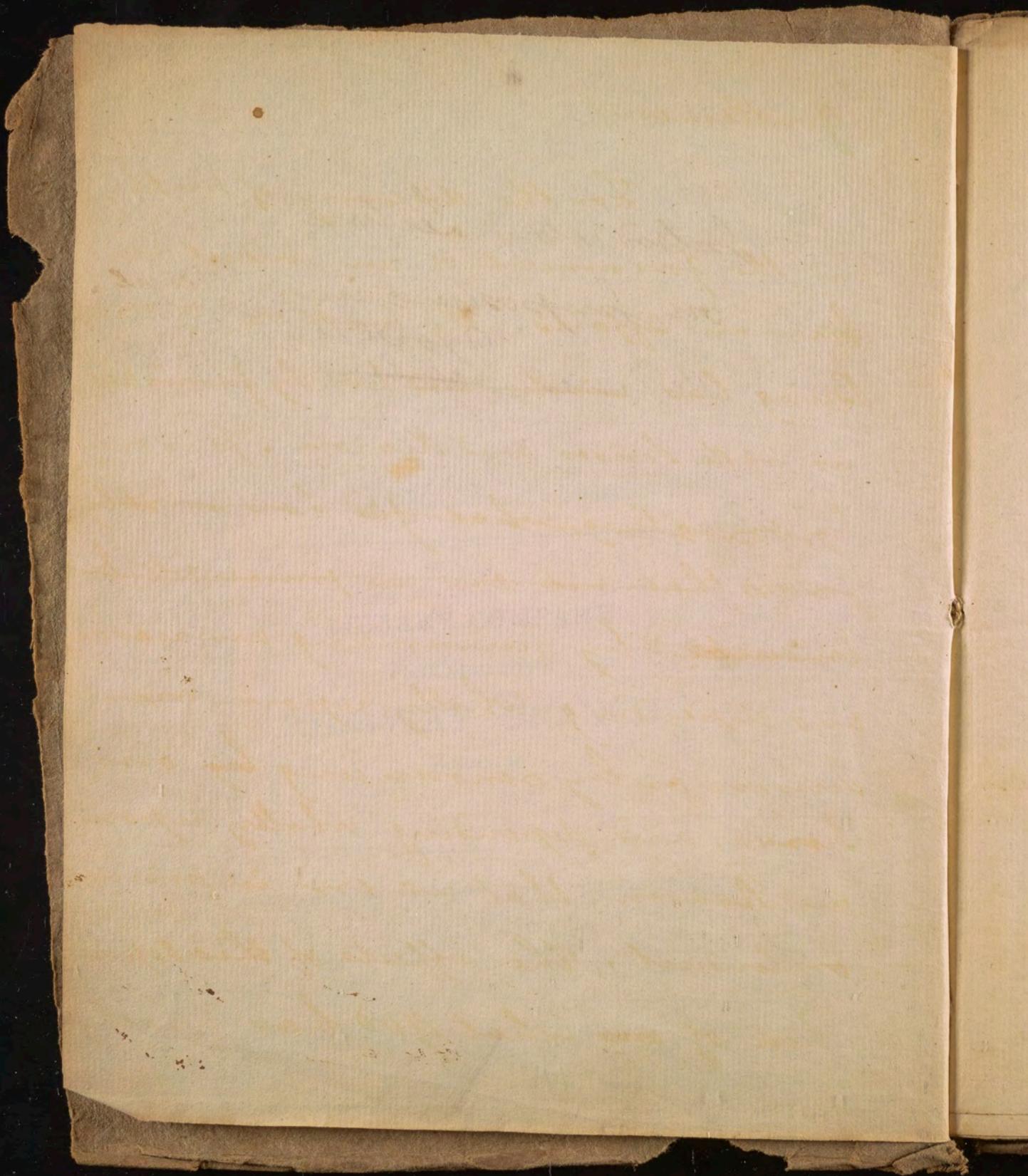
PHILADELPHIA.

RIDGWAY BRANCH.

PRESENTED BY

COMMUNITER BONA PROFUNDERE DEORUM EST.

Introductory Lecture -  
on Imposture in Medicine.  
Delivered November<sup>r</sup>  
1798



1

Gentlemen /

For the discovery of truth,  
and the government of our conduct in  
human affairs, the Author of our  
Being has wisely and kindly furnished  
us with Senses and Reason. It is only  
~~by suggesting what God has wisely~~  
~~joined, that we err in principle &~~  
~~conduct.~~ by renouncing our reason,  
and depending wholly upon our  
Senses, or by renouncing ~~by~~ our  
Senses, and depending wholly upon  
our Reason, that we err in principle  
or conduct. The effects of this separa-  
tion of ~~are~~ what God has wisely

v It was by ~~done~~

joined together, appear in a variety of ways, and upon a variety of subjects. It is was by suspending the exercise of Reason that ~~error~~<sup>Imposture</sup> was introduced into Religion, & government.

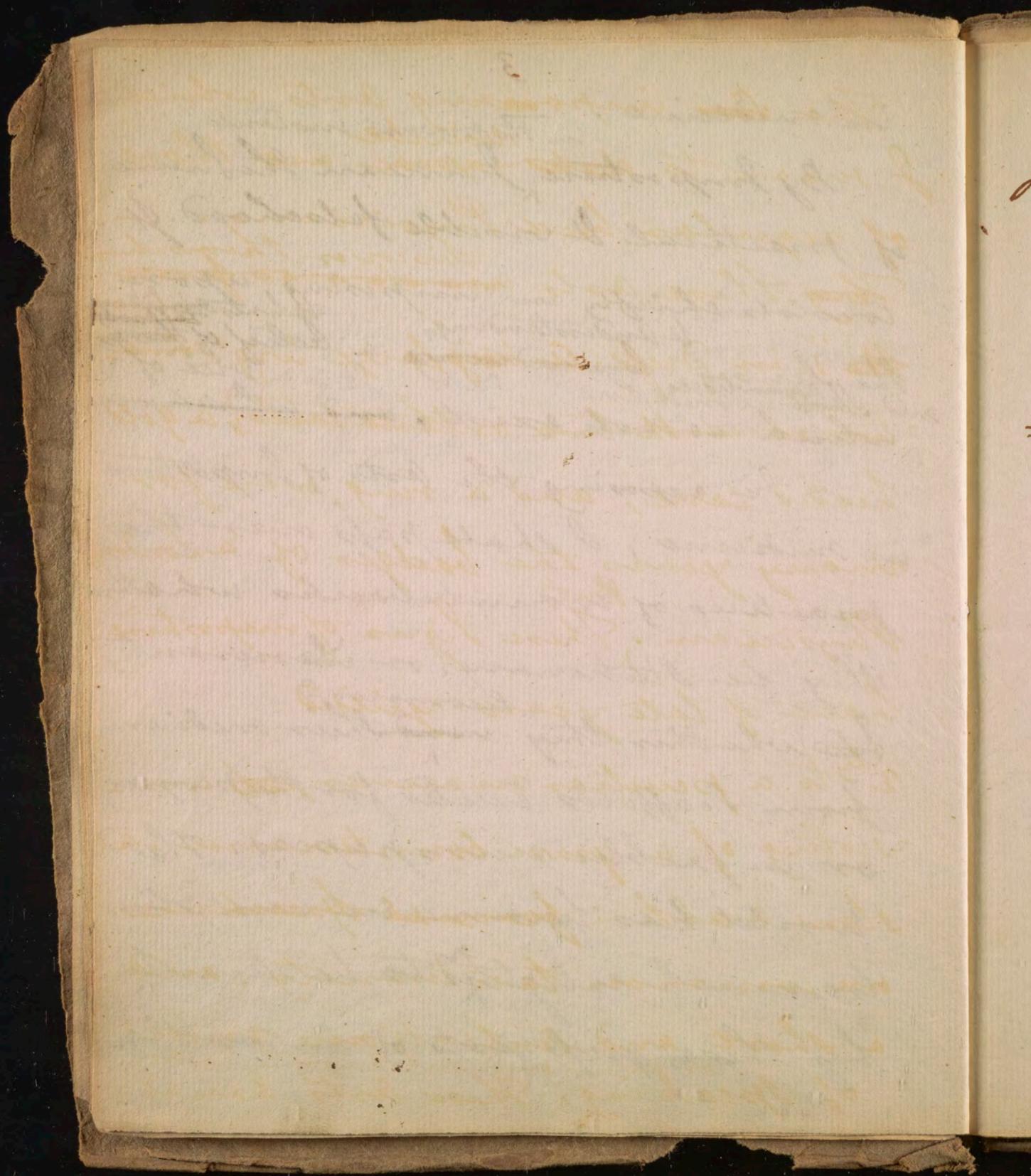
~~It is not~~ It is not very difficult to By the same means, imposture has been introduced into medicine. - ~~It is not~~ It would require many pages to point out all the evils which has arisen from the renunciation of Reason in religion & government. The business of the present Lecture shall be confined wholly to those forms of imposture & evils out the forms ~~of~~<sup>employed</sup> of imposture

V a Specific kind, and the source of  
much evil in the world. [The other  
vices of Physicians shall be the  
subject of some future lecture].

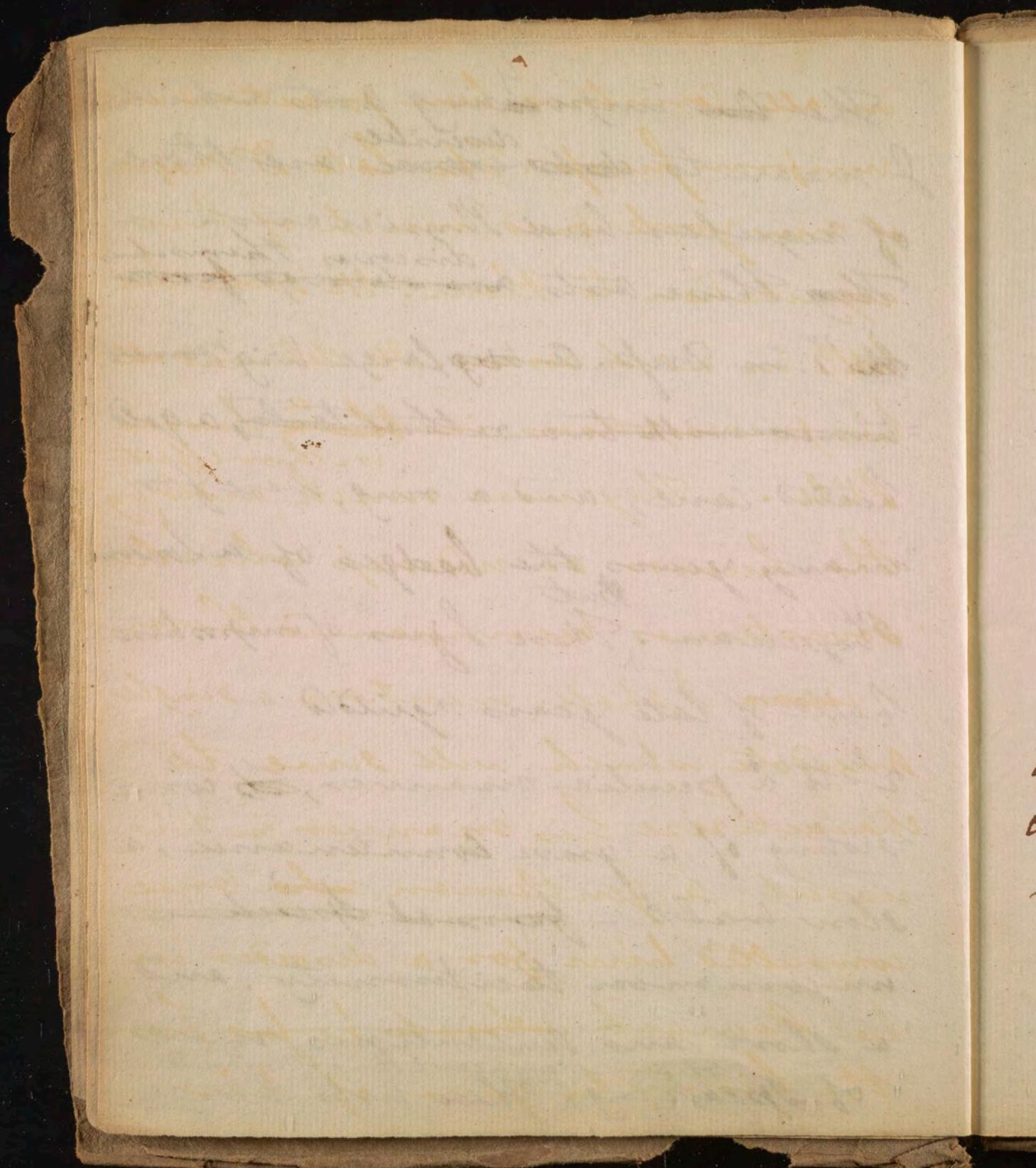
in medicine.

By Imposture <sup>in the present instance,</sup> I mean the science of practical & visible falsehood. It consists chiefly in imposing upon <sup>upon my</sup> Understanding, <sup>Talents & Abilities</sup> ~~the Phenomena by inducing a belief of those~~  
~~and talents in Medicine~~ <sup>It is a vice of</sup> ~~which do not exist, and whenceare~~

In exposing the arts of Imposture in medicine, I shall pass over the practices of mountebanks whether they be stationary, or itinerant, & whether they <sup>recommend</sup> ~~read~~ their medicines from scaffolds erected for the purpose, or in public newspapers. The world has become in most places too much enlightened to be deceived by these gross arts of imposition.

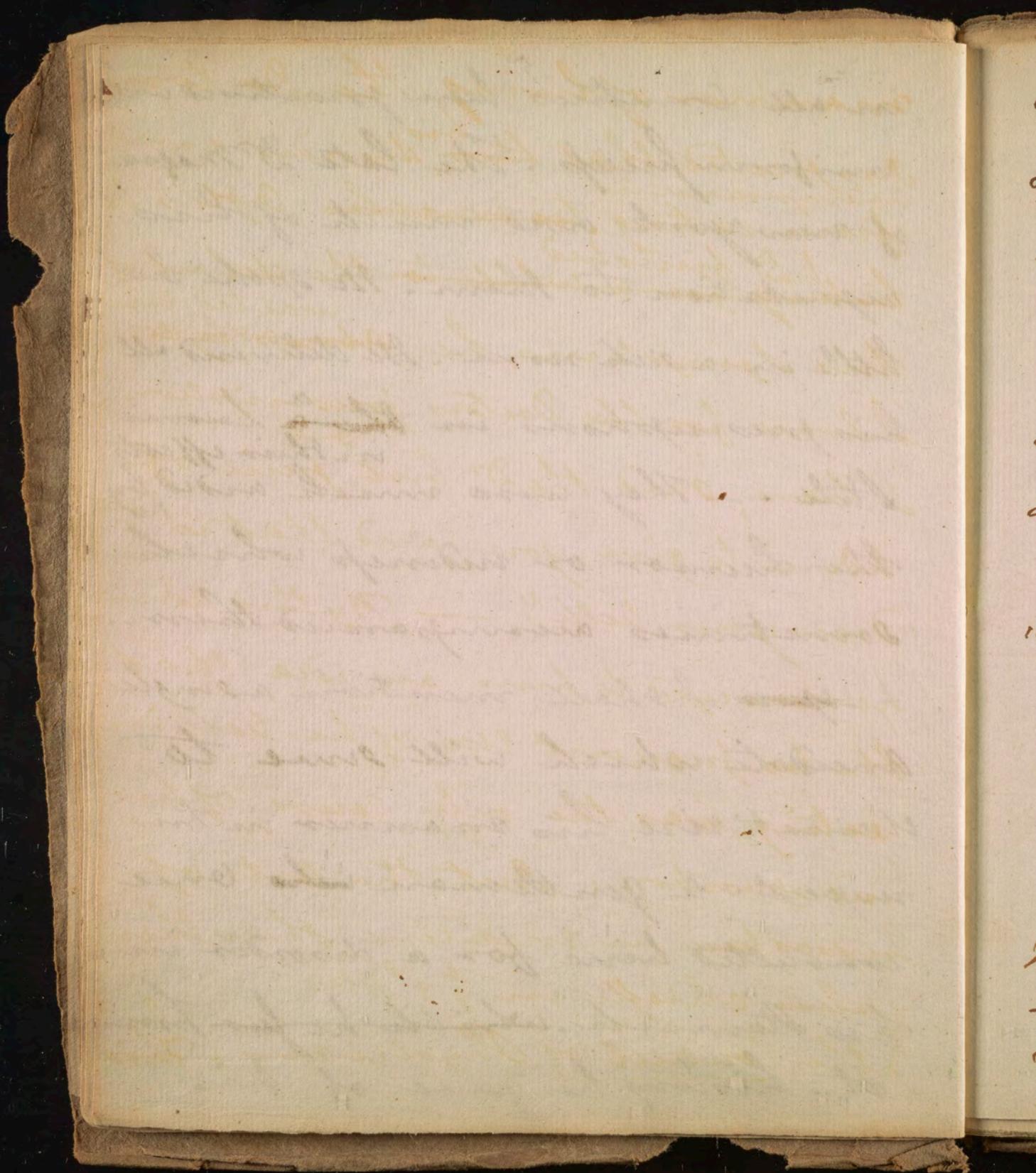


The ~~the~~ <sup>4</sup> improving Arts which  
I mean to ~~do~~ <sup>describe</sup> are those  
of regular and Physicians. —  
~~They~~ These arts <sup>discover</sup> ~~are known from~~  
~~the~~ i. in Drps. A ~~large~~ <sup>big</sup> large wig ~~done~~  
= times with two or three tails, a gold  
headed cane, and a ring, were for  
many years the badges of a London  
Physician. <sup>But</sup> These signs of imposture  
have of late years yielded  
2<sup>ly</sup> to a peculiar manner, ~~of~~ con-  
= sisting of a grave countenance, a  
slow walk - ~~formal~~ <sup>or</sup> speechless  
uncommon taciturnity, and  
a short and sententious mode  
of speaking, <sup>or an insignificant thing of the shoulder.</sup> These arts have

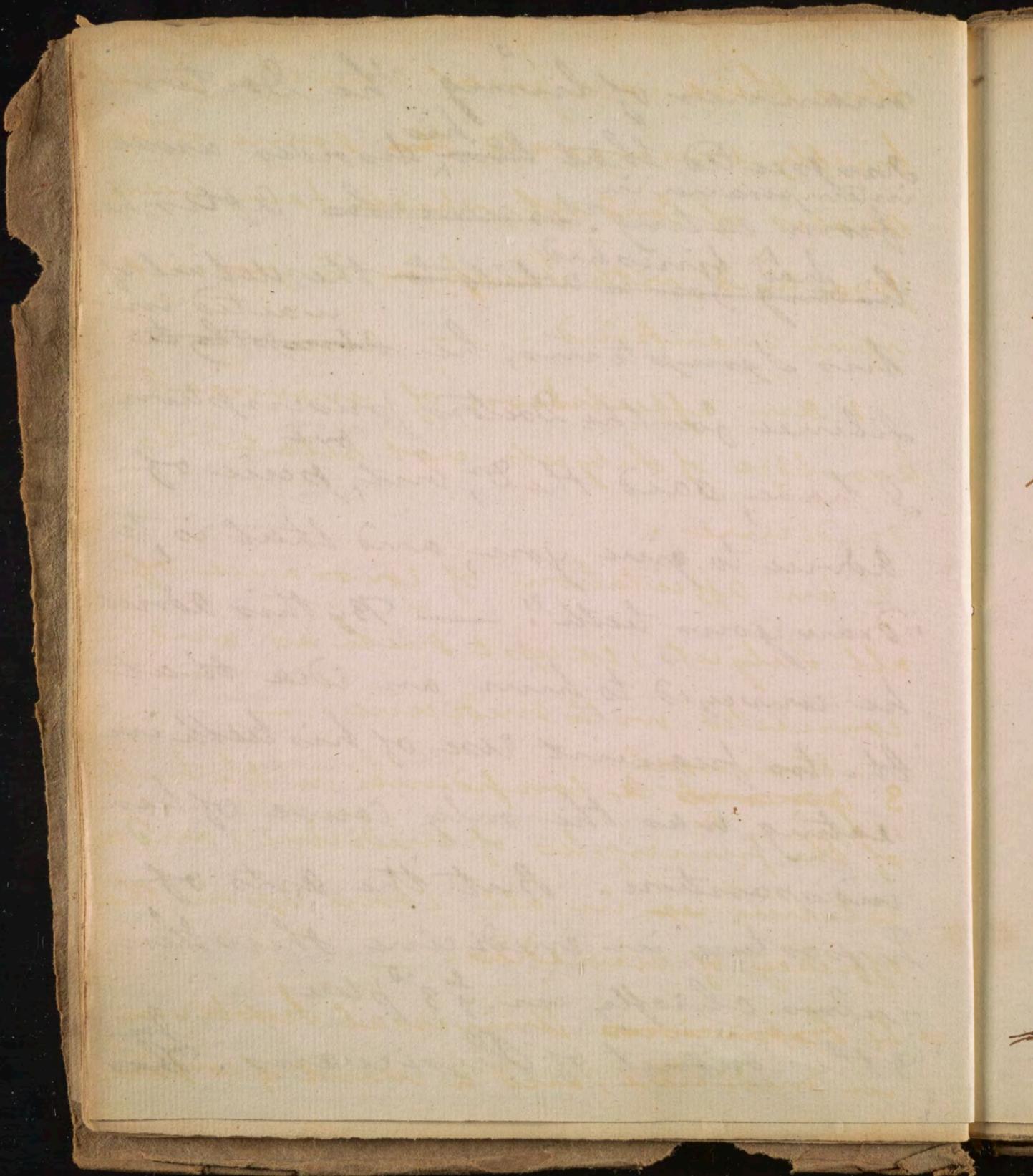


in all Countries<sup>5</sup> been practised with uniform success. The late Dr Mayr of New York owed much of his reputation to them. He spoke but little in a sick room. He delivered all his prescriptions in ~~that~~<sup>a</sup> laconic still. — They were much aided by the humor or ridens which sometimes accompanied them.

- ~~thus~~ I shall mention a single anecdote which will serve to characterise his manner in this respect. A gentleman who once consulted him for a disorder in his Stomach. which he got from the history he gave of his



manner of living, the Doctor  
inspected that his disorder arose  
from eating ~~too much~~<sup>too much</sup>. After he  
~~had finished~~<sup>had waited in</sup>  
~~history for a while~~<sup>waited in</sup> to the detail of  
his symptoms, he ~~abruptly~~<sup>one</sup> to  
silence for the Doctors prescription.  
I have, said the Dr, but <sup>one</sup> piece of  
advice to give you, and that is, to  
"Draw your teeth"! — By this advice  
he conveyed to him an idea that  
the too frequent use of his teeth in  
eating, was the only cause of his  
indisposition. But the arts of  
Imposture in medicine show them-  
selves chiefly in  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> place  
in the conduct of Physicians. <sup>In</sup> His



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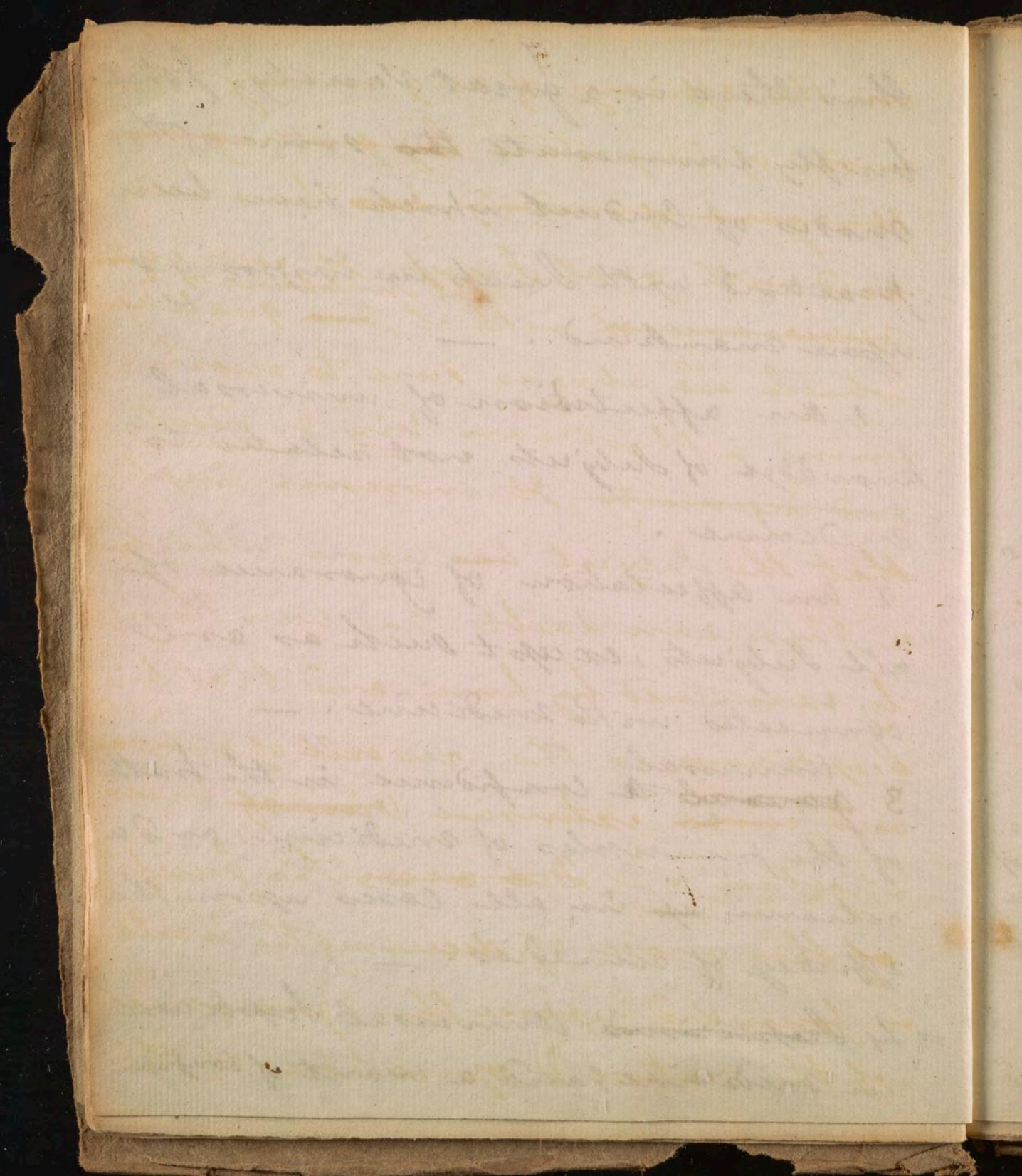
this there is a great variety. I shall  
briefly enumerate the some of those  
modes of conduct which have been  
practised with success in imposing  
upon mankind. —

1 an affectation of universal  
knowledge of subjects not related to  
medicine.

2 an affectation of ignorance of  
all subjects, except such as are  
connected with medicine. —

3 ~~general~~<sup>Universal</sup> confidence in the truth  
of the principles of medicine, and a  
reliance ~~as~~<sup>\*</sup> in all cases upon the  
efficacy of remedies. —

= 4 Scepticism Universal Scepticism  
in medicine, and a want of confidence



in the efficacy<sup>5</sup> of any remedy. This mode of imposture by putting on the garb of modesty, has been used with great success. It carries the semblance of a physician with it, two qualities which are always sure to recommend a physician viz modesty. and ignorance, It moreover implies that the subject has upon which a Physician doubts, has been thoroughly examined by him, and that his scepticism is the result of a deep and more extensive view of investigation. - Did not the success of this mode of deceiving the world is founded upon the ignorance of the nature & operations of the

Connected with this species of imposture is the unumiation, or denial of the use of Reason in Medicine. It is remarkable that the same men who refuse to admit that any of the truths of medicine are Objects of our reason, reject all those ~~refuse to admit~~ of every truths in religion which are not "capable" of rational demonstration. There are two kinds of Reason, & that which is ~~but~~ <sup>truth</sup> ~~not~~ Reason, viz: that, which is right, <sup>or</sup> wrong. All men use one of them in every pursuit of their lives. — As well might

human mind<sup>9</sup>. — The man who  
doubts universally & decides ~~in favor~~<sup>against</sup>  
the certainty of all every principle  
in medicine, does so in consequence  
of an decided act of his judgement.  
However uncertain he may be of the  
truths in medicine, ~~somthing~~ <sup>is</sup> his  
certain of one thing - and that is  
that there is no certainty in medi-  
cine. As well<sup>right</sup> he attempt to prove  
that himself ~~by~~ blind, by pointing to  
certain objects before him, & declaring  
at the same time  
that he was unable to see them!

But again

Imposture in medicine shuns itself  
by an undue degree of minuteness  
in attending to the symptoms of

we cease to breath as cease to reason.

~~The Physician~~ Those who wish to see this opinion established by many striking observations may consult Dr. McEwens ~~Introduction~~ <sup>Hypothesis</sup> to his Experiments on the Bile - All Physicians reason, and that the only difference between a skilful & unskilful Physician consists in the reasonings of the former being just, and of the latter being erroneous from the adopting false premises, or drawing false conclusions from such as are true. The Physician therefore who erroneous reason is an impostor is a twofold sense - he deceives himself, as well as other people.

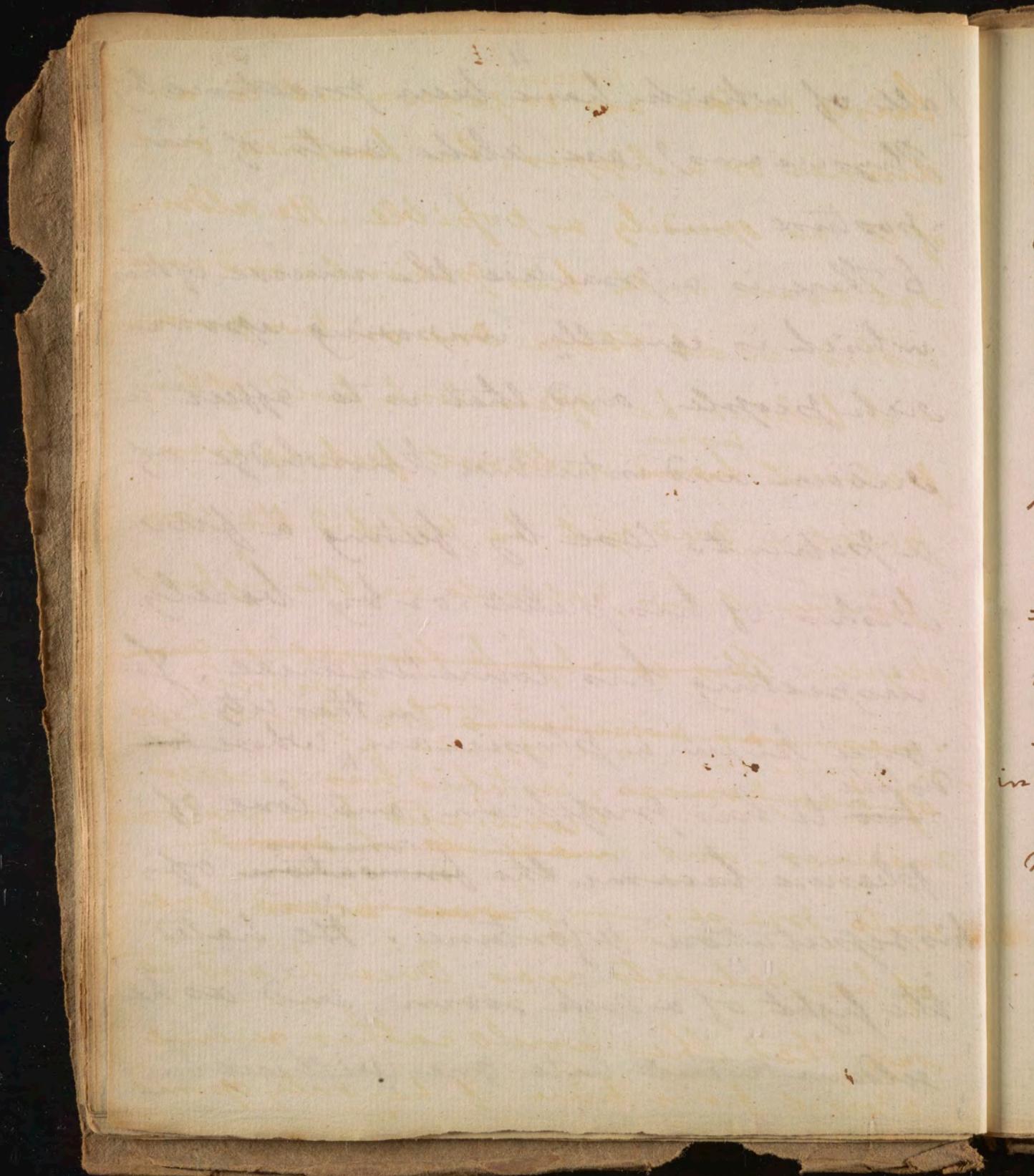
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diseases. — ~~Diseases~~ which occur  
doe in the daily practice of Physicians  
are easily known. A few questions  
and an examination of ~~a few exter-~~  
=nal signs are sufficient to go import  
all the knowledge which is necessary to  
cure of a fever. ~~But~~ ~~Physic~~ ~~ians who~~ ~~less~~ ~~minutes in a sick~~  
~~know~~ ~~the~~ ~~inspiration of the lips & teeth~~  
by means of a magnifying glass - the  
tasting of the Urine & Sweats - the smelling  
of the feaces - the examination of the  
elbows to know whether a patient labours  
under a bilious or yellow fever - and the  
~~helping~~ getting into bed with a patient  
to discover the quality of his perspiration

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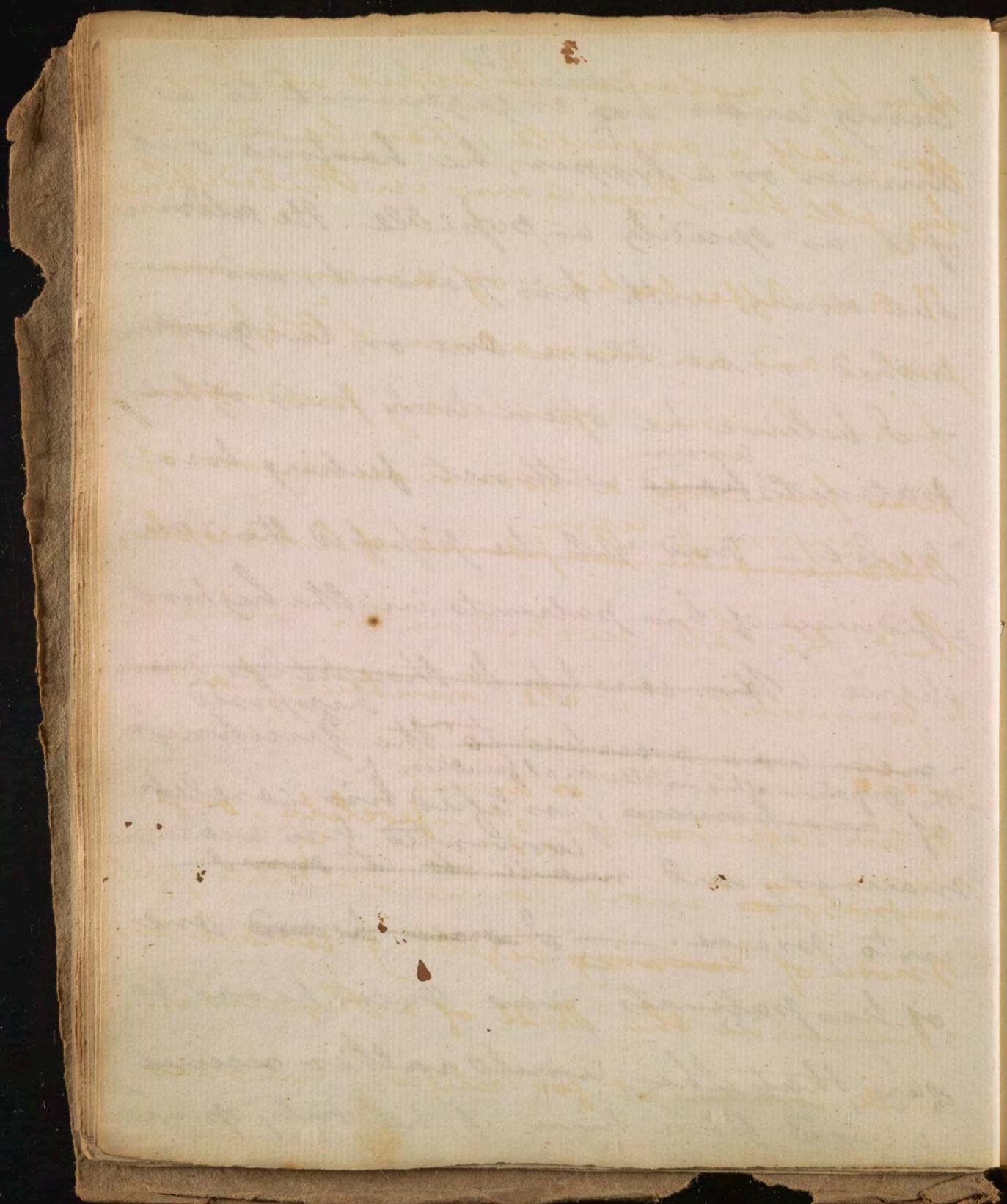
(all of which have been practised by  
Physicians) are alike acts of im-  
posture. —

6 There is a practice the reverse of this,  
which is equally imposing upon  
sick people, and that is to effect a  
sudden and intuitive knowledge of  
a patients case by feeling a few  
strokes of his pulse, or by barely  
inspecting his countenance. I  
once knew a physician, <sup>in this city</sup> whose ha-  
~~dislike~~ to his profession, and love of  
pleasure became the <sup>means</sup> foundation of  
his reputation & fortune. He hated  
the sight of a sick room, and as he  
seldom went into one without being



being under <sup>previous</sup><sup>12</sup> engagement to a dinner or a supper, he hastened out of it as speedily as possible. He alway sat down with his patient, and never asked more than one or two questions.

- I believe he often took hold of his patient's <sup>arm</sup> hand without feeling his pulse, - and yet he possessed the confidence of his patients in the highest degree. ~~His carelessness & thoughtless manner was accented to the supposed infirmities of his patients, justified his carelessness, converted his meanness into praise.~~ — I once heard one of his patients was once heard to say, that the world rather receive a visit from him if he only opened



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her bed curtains<sup>13</sup> & looked at her  
for half a minute, than be attended  
by all the Physicians in Philadelphia.

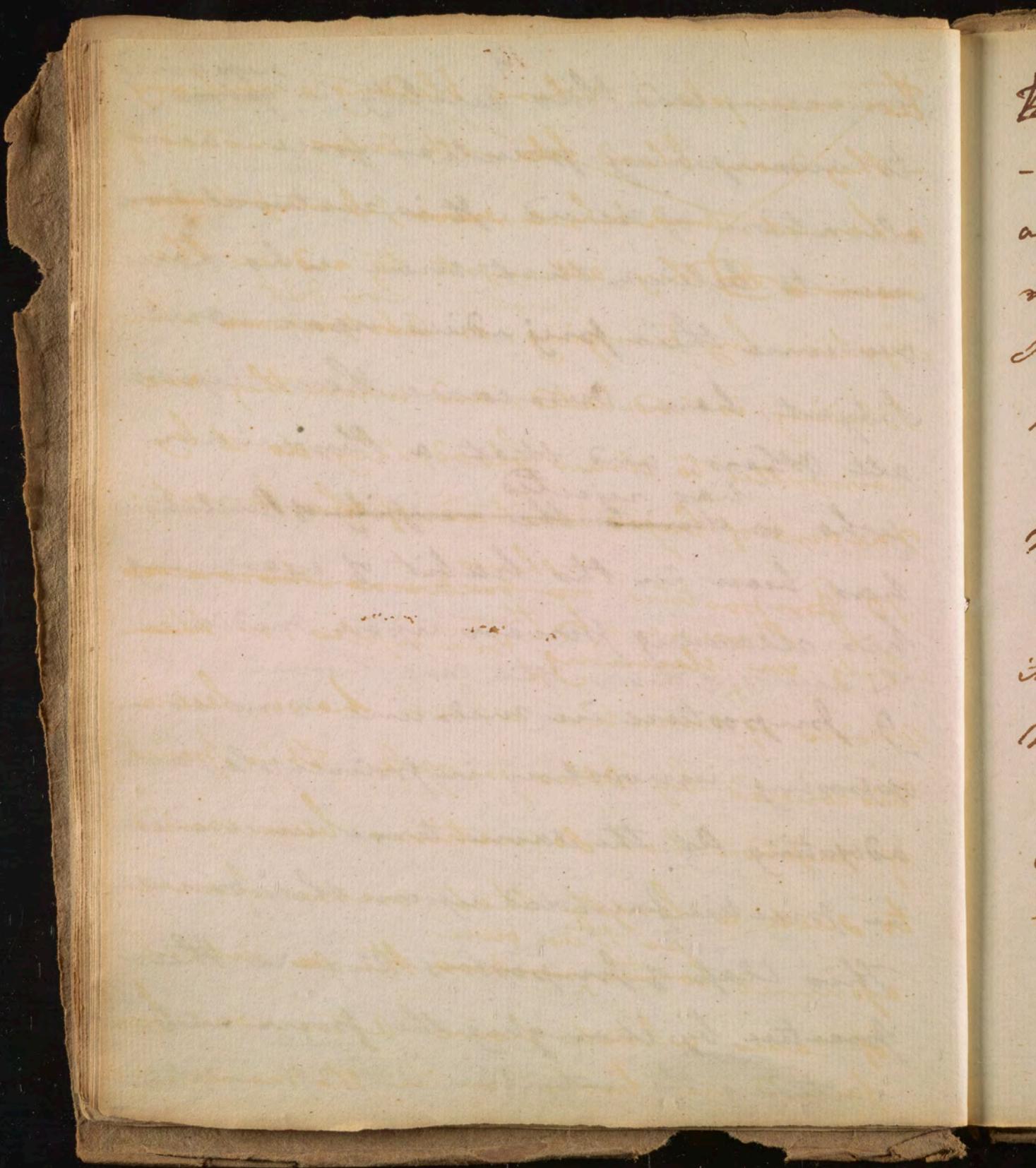
7 an Affectation of uncommon  
piety, and an invocation of <sup>a</sup> Blessing  
from heaven upon every prescription,  
was formerly a common mode of  
~~obtaining the confidence of sick people,~~  
but the late evolution in morals  
& principles in all Countries has  
made

8 an Affectation <sup>or avowal</sup> of infidelity, or  
Atheism <sup>is a</sup> more common & ungrateful  
mode of ~~desiring~~ begetting undue con-  
= fidence in the Skill of a Physician.  
— A contemner for religion implies

v that we often see Alkaists in religion, be-  
=leivers in the most absurd systems and  
modes of practice in medicine.

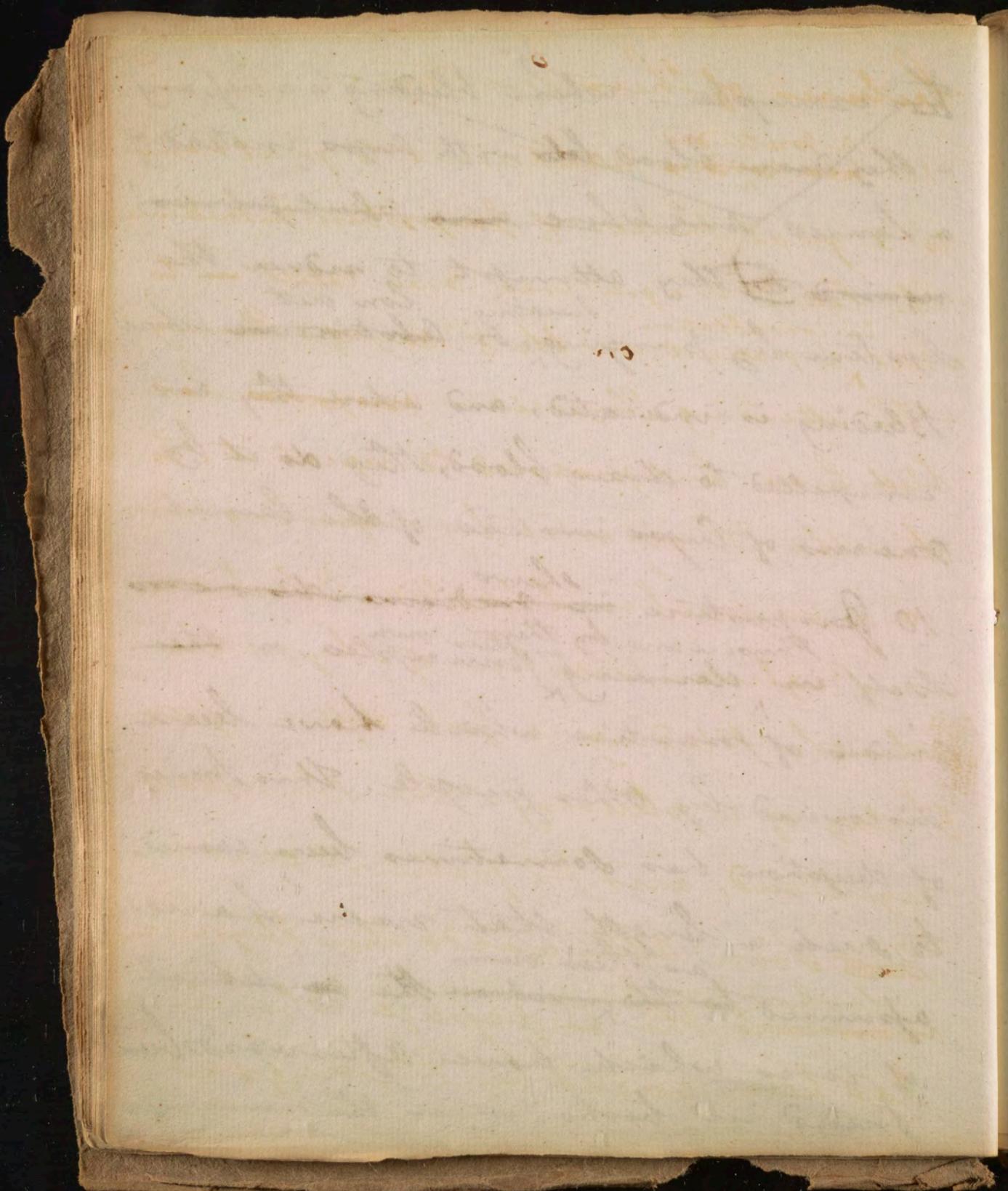
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courage, and this quality is <sup>supposed</sup> ~~good~~,  
to accompany peculiar force, and  
elevations of mind. It is natural more-  
over to believe that men who have  
overcome their prejudices upon one  
subject, have overcome them upon  
all others, and that a Physician  
who <sup>has rejected</sup> ~~is denied the capacity to~~ Revolution,  
has been in the habit of exercising  
his reasoning powers upon Medicine.  
The reverse of this is often case, insomuch  
as Imposture in medicine consists in  
opposing innovation in principle, and  
adopting at the same time innovations  
in practice founded upon those principles.  
This class of Impostors disguise their  
practice by changing the form without  
altering the intention of their prescription.



~~For example - where bleeding is necessary  
- they draw blood ~~by~~ <sup>15</sup> with Crysos instead of  
a Lancet, and where ~~was~~ was plentiful it is  
required ~~that~~ they attempt to reduce the  
System by purging, or Abstinences where  
Bleeding is indicated, and when they are  
compelled to draw blood, they do it by  
means of Crysos instead of the lancet.~~

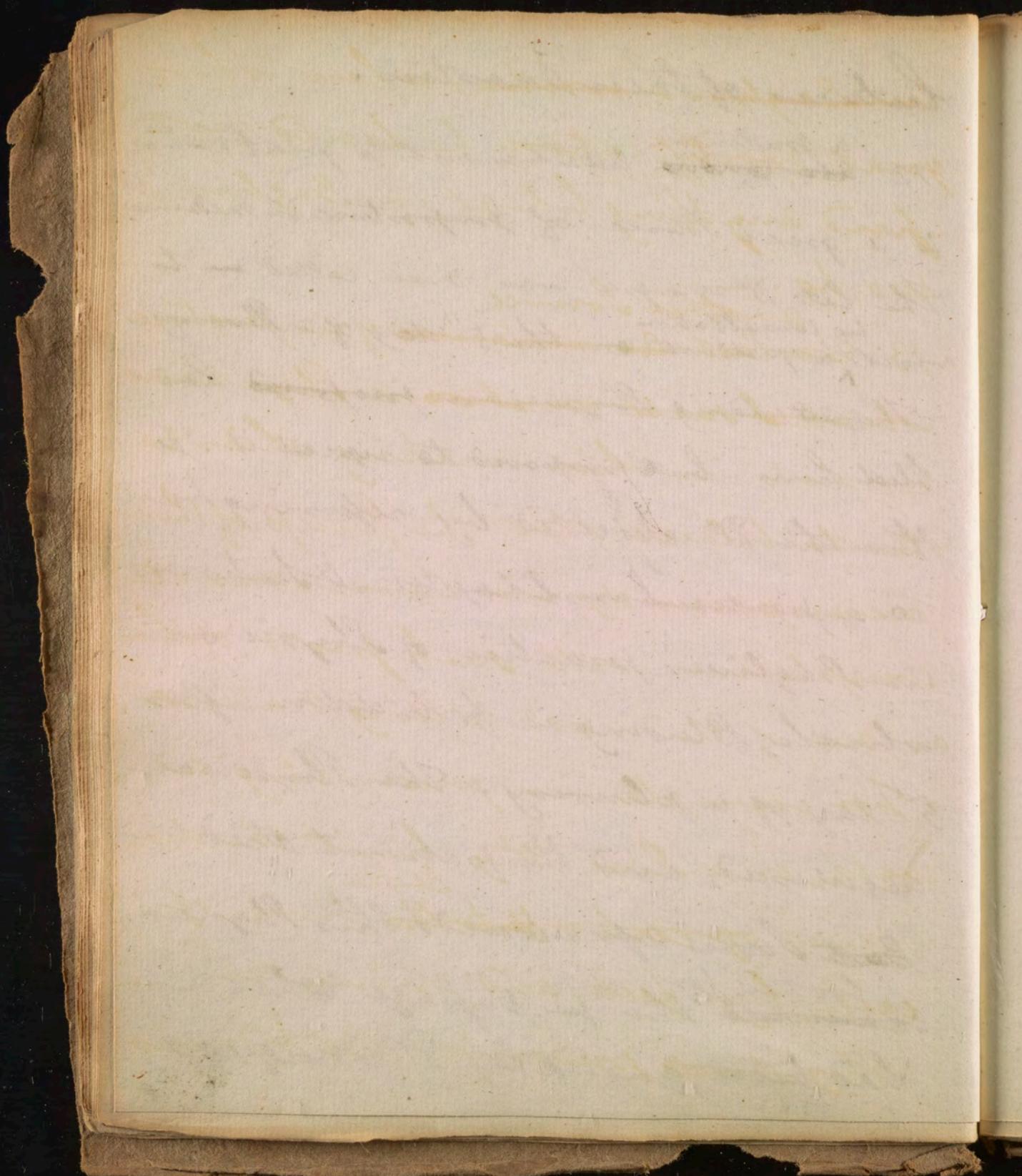
10 Imposture ~~is~~ <sup>shows</sup> discovered  
Physicians by ~~themselves~~ <sup>as their own</sup> principles, or the  
modes of practice which have been  
discovered by other people. This species  
of deception has sometimes been carried  
to such a length that men have  
assumed ~~to themselves~~ <sup>as their own</sup> the detail  
of cases which have afterward been  
found in books, or in the manuscript



Lectures of their masters.<sup>16</sup>

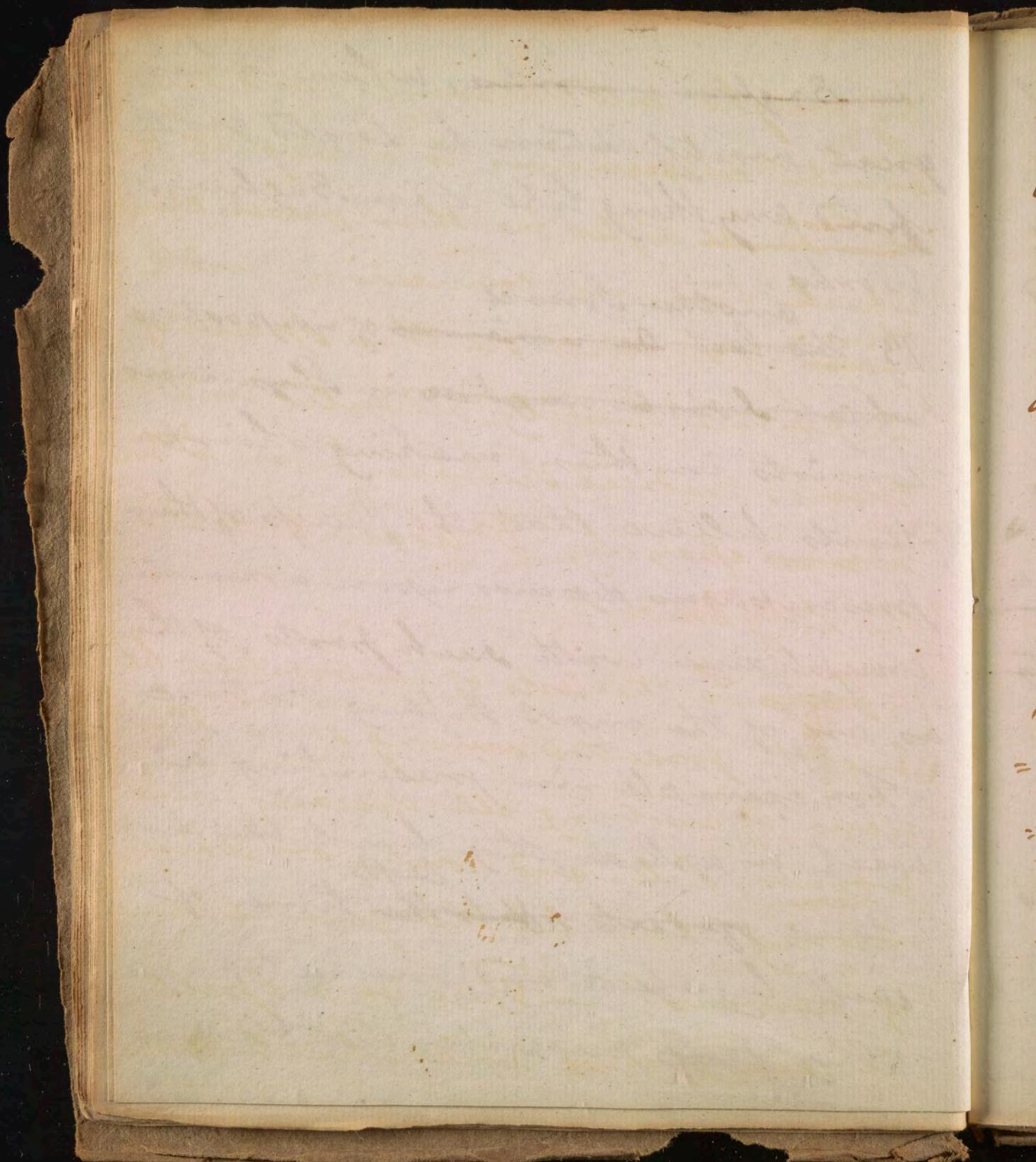
12 <sup>a pretended</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>in consultation</sup> Attachment to great names  
is a great source of Imposture in medicine.  
The late Dr. Magra was once called in to  
visit a patient on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of a Plury.  
- The attending Physician ~~proposed~~ had  
bled him, but proposed to repeat it. To  
this the Dr. objected by referring him  
to a particular Chapter, & Section  
in Baglivi's practice of Physic in  
which Bleeding is forbidden after  
5<sup>th</sup> day of a plury. The Physician  
acquiesced, and the patient died. -

But soon afterwards this Physician  
~~examined~~ <sup>looked for</sup> the passage which  
had been quoted by Dr. Magra;



in Baglivi's works,<sup>17</sup> when to his great mortification he could not find anything like it in Baglivi's works.

13 <sup>another Source</sup> ~~The last & instances~~ of imposture which I shall mention in Physicians consists in their making their patients believe that the price of their prescriptions depends upon a minute compliance with such parts of them, as are of the most trifling nature. — For example - in prescribing a walk, or a ride, they limit the distance of each & <sup>& the</sup> time of each, by feet, and minutes. — They do not prescribe diet & drinks



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by weight and measure, and they  
ascribe consequences to a neglect of  
~~those~~ ~~these small~~ trifles in their prescriptions  
which have no connection with  
~~you~~ you will see this species of  
imposture happily ridiculed in Dr  
Moore's medical Sketches, & in ~~Dr~~ Dan  
Adair's epay by Dr Adair entitled  
the "Lady Doctor": —

14 It is to the Arts of imposition be-  
long the practice among some Physi-  
cians of resolving all diseases into  
worms, Bile, and Gout, or charac-  
terizing them by the general name  
of nervous. — ~~There is a spell~~  
in each of these words which com-  
poses

V<sup>15<sup>th</sup></sup> The last mode of imposition that I  
shall take notice of, under this head,  
consists in ~~you~~ pronouncing every  
disease ~~as~~ <sup>to be</sup> dangerous, and  
the probable issue of it, to be fatal.  
By this means a Physician plays  
a <sup>safe</sup> double game. If his patient die  
he loses no ~~reputation~~ credit, but if he  
recovers he gains great reputation.  
~~for notwithstanding his incongruity~~  
of his conduct, for <sup>in curing,</sup> His Skill in such  
cases gets the better of his Fagacity in  
knowing diseases. This inconsistency  
of conduct so obvious when <sup>detected,</sup> exposed has  
deceived thousands, & made the fortunes  
of many Physicians. —

I <sup>shall</sup> conclude this part

the minds of sick people] Jones  
knew a Physician who <sup>measurably</sup> ~~had~~ <sup>and</sup> <sup>had</sup> <sup>been</sup>  
amused and deceived <sup>by</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>time</sup>  
a whole City ~~dance~~ <sup>produced</sup> <sup>an</sup> <sup>by</sup>  
each of those words for above 20  
years. — He connected no ideas with  
any of them, but they ~~were to be~~  
<sup>and</sup> a large revenue of reputation  
~~profit~~ <sup>& symptoms</sup> <sup>to him</sup>, for as the ~~large~~ causes <sup>of</sup>  
those diseases are supposed to be  
very obscure, ~~he and their symptoms~~  
the discovery of them <sup>was</sup> <sup>is</sup> supposed to  
imply great sagacity in medicine.

Having mentioned imposterism  
the arts of Imposture as far as they  
depend upon the deaf, maimed &

by two remarks. 1<sup>o</sup> all the  
of our Subject, without taking notice  
of the pernicious influence of all those  
which have been mentioned  
different species of imposture expose  
have a most pernicious influence upon  
the morals of Physicians. They seldom  
fail of drawing other vices after them,  
particularly lying, & falsehood in speech  
~~as much~~<sup>for</sup> is the natural consequence of falsehood  
in conduct. ~~as much as~~<sup>just</sup> as theft is of  
habitual fraud in business. 2<sup>o</sup> Impos-  
ture in medicine such as has been  
described, never fails to defeat itself.  
A man's true character, <sup>for talents & knowledge</sup> will always  
be known either in life, or after his  
death. An imposter in medicine,  
is only a tenant in reputation —  
when detected, & exposed, is sure to meet  
with detestation or contempt. —

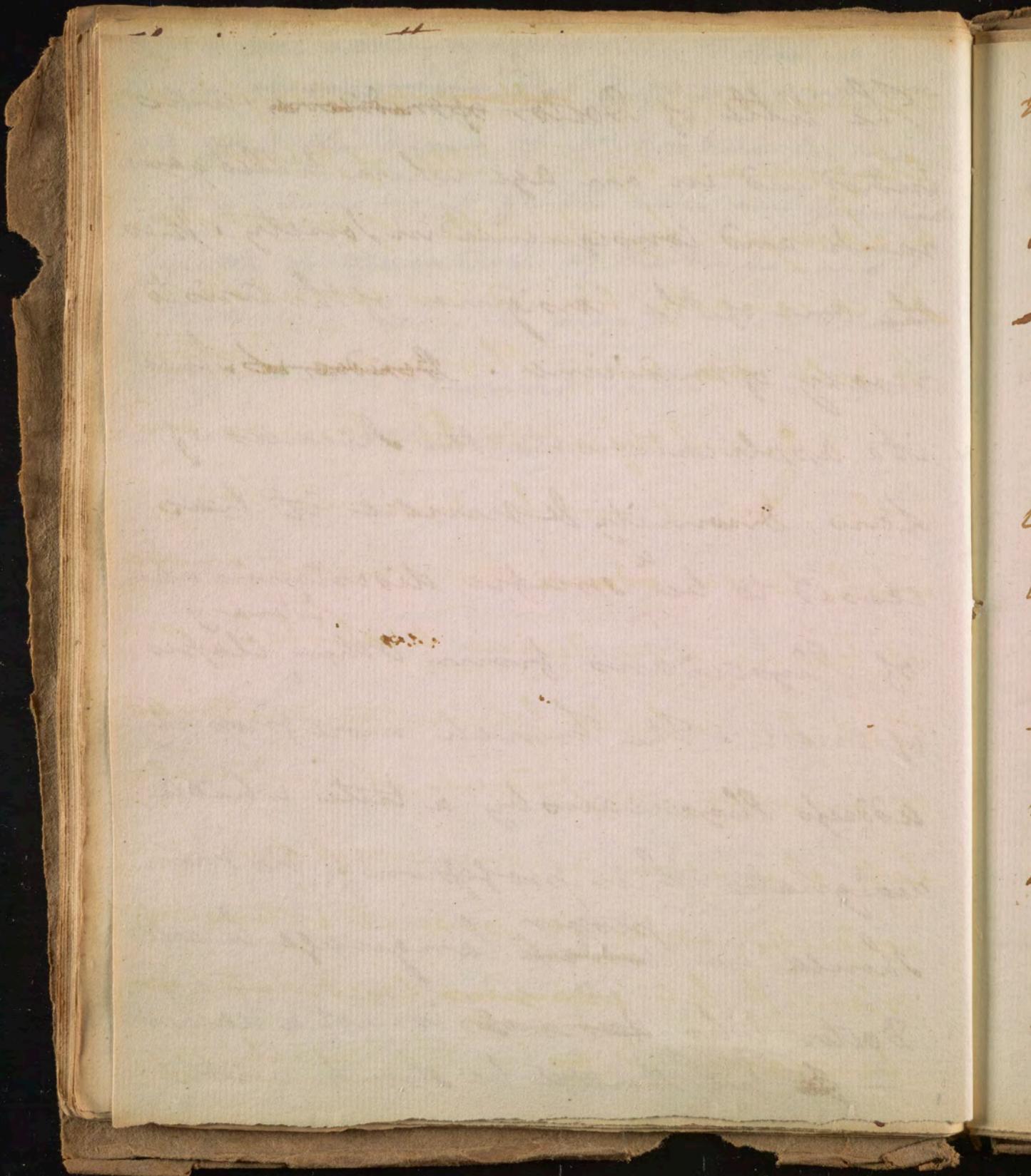
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Conduit of Physicians, I prouid in  
the last place to mention certain  
auxilliary circumstances which  
either alone, or combined with the  
foregoing Arts have contributed very  
much to deceive and injure man-  
kind.

The first thing that I shall mention  
under this head is Diploma. This  
testimony of Abilities & knowledge  
in medicine once had its uses, but  
since it has been <sup>often</sup> given, <sup>& sometimes</sup>  
applied without <sup>due</sup> previous instruction or an exa-  
mination <sup>of</sup> it has lost much of  
its ~~as~~ beneficial influence upon  
our profession. —

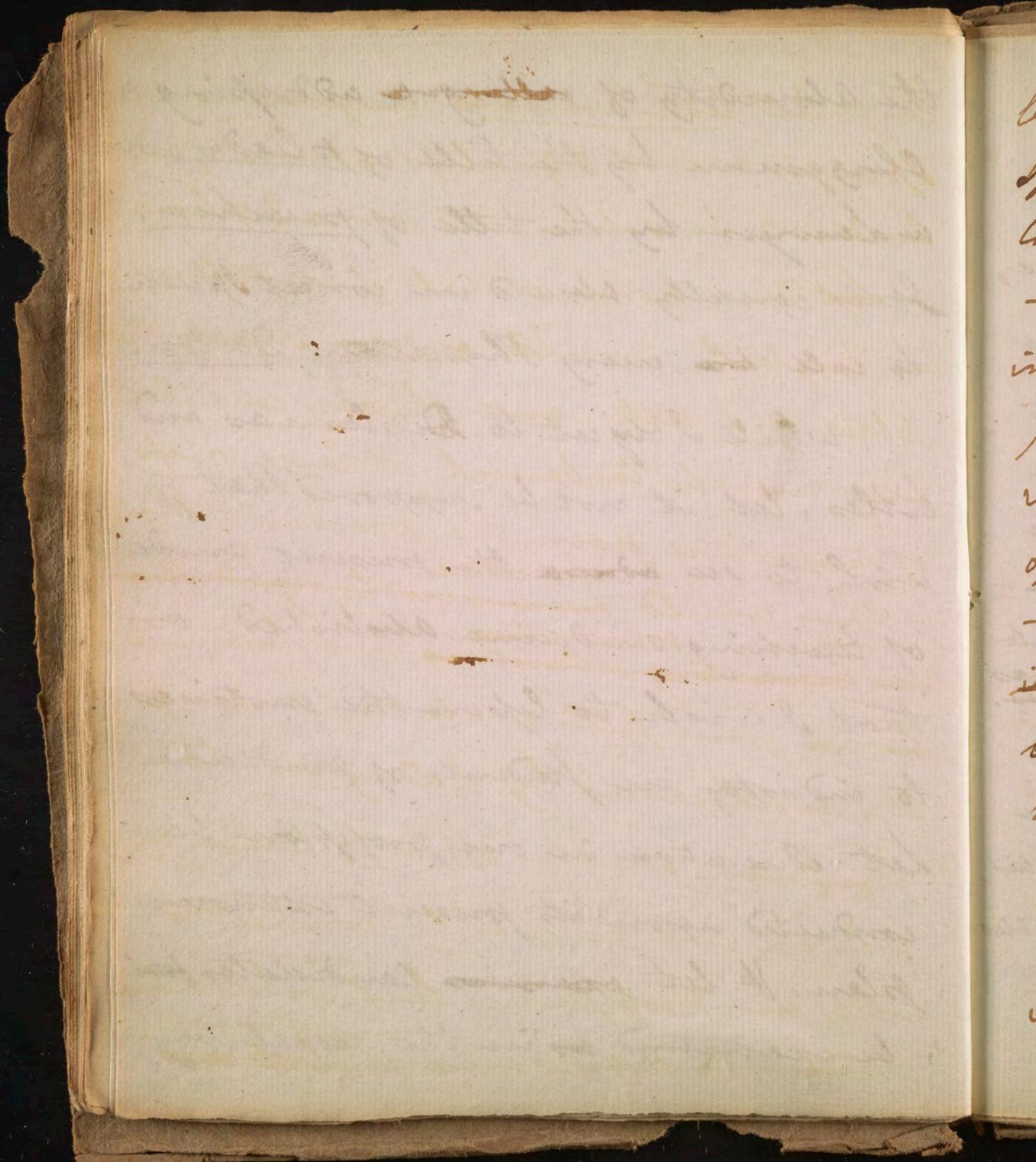
There is one worthy of notice here, & that is  
thing strange how that Infidels in religion  
are often the Dusks of imposture in medicine  
— It w<sup>d</sup> seem as if faith were an essential  
faculty or operation of the mind, and if  
not exercised upon its proper objects in  
religion — is exercised upon improper  
Objects & in other things. —

The title of Doctor of medicine was introduced in an age when titles gave rank and consequence in society. It is ~~the~~ one of the insignia of the aristocracy of medicine. Besides since its application to the sciences of law, divinity & music it has ceased to be <sup>a</sup> specific discrimination of Physicians from other <sup>literary</sup> classes of men. The French more properly address Physicians by a title which designates their profession. No man should in <sup>proper</sup> language be called Doctor who ~~does not~~ is not a teacher. — ~~It~~ we should be struck with



the absurdity of calling a addressing a  
Clergyman by the title of pleader, or  
a Lawyer by the title of preacher.  
It is equally absurd in correct speech  
to call the every Physician, Doctor.

while I object to Diplomas and  
titles, let it not be supposed that I  
wish to see ~~done~~ the present mode  
of teaching medicine abolished, or  
that I wish to lessen the motives  
to industry in students of medicine.  
Let education in our profession be  
conducted upon its present extensive  
plan, & let ~~exams~~ candidates for  
be examined as in the usual way,



22

but let testimonials importing the  
specific merit & qualifications of each  
candidate be substituted for a diploma.

- Let these testimonials if written  
in English, would soon supply the  
place of a title, and thereby contribute  
very much to banish a large mass  
of imposture from the practice of Physic.

- They would ~~have another~~ <sup>likewise</sup> good effect,  
~~in preventing~~ <sup>preventing</sup> our business  
from falling into the hands of  
the Apothecaries by leading us to  
perform all the offices of humanity  
which are necessarily connected  
with our profession, but which the  
pride of a degree has <sup>unfortunately</sup> ~~caused~~

✓ I am <sup>not</sup> ~~ever~~ sure whether private  
lectureships would not contribute  
more to promote truth in medicine,  
~~than those~~ lectures given under  
the sanction of legal establishments  
in Universities. The tendency of  
all such establishments is to produce  
indolence, and an <sup>attachment to</sup> impracticable  
~~attempt at~~ venerable names, and <sup>attempt at</sup>  
ancient forms, in medicine. It was  
upon this account that Dr Adam Smith  
in his wealth of nations, has borne  
such a testimony against all Universities,  
by pronouncing them to be the receptacles  
of exploded Opinions in all sciences. —

we have been taught to 23  
believe were inconsistent  
with our ~~duty~~<sup>the</sup>, supposed dignity of a  
degree in medicine. — ^

Fellowships of Colleges of Physicians  
& memberships of medical Societies have  
had a considerable influence in  
begetting imposture in medicine. —  
I complain of these titles only when  
they are honorary. Colleges of Phy-  
=sicians & medical Societies are highly  
useful as registers of discoveries in  
medicine. —

"The use of the Latin language as  
the vehicle of knowledge, ~~is~~<sup>medical</sup> or  
as the language of a prescription,

✓ It has favored imposture in  
all countries. The late Dr Akenside  
owed much of his fame reputation &  
success as a Physician to his being the best  
<sup>Scholar</sup> ~~greatest~~ in England. It would have added  
much more to his medical character to have  
been the best Cook in the Kingdom. Dr  
Gregory has acquired universal fame for  
the elegance <sup>beauty</sup> of his "Conspicetus medicinae  
Theoreticae". He would have deserved  
much more <sup>more</sup> ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> teaching the world  
& medicines ~~with~~ in such a manner  
as to produce their greatest effects without  
offending the palate. —

[This quæst. is a short account of the Arts  
of imposture I have enumerated them  
in Order to guard you against them. —

is the property of medicine. — It should  
~~be laid aside~~  
~~be rejected~~ by all candid honest men. V

These Opinions, Gentlemen I know  
 will be coldly received by persons who are  
 enslaved by their early associations in  
 medicine, & ~~Book~~ and the attempt to  
 inculcate them will be considered as a  
 species of disorganization. However ~~up~~  
<sup>& odious</sup> unpopular ~~this~~ word may be <sup>in just and</sup>  
 with some  
 well ordered governments  
 people, I am disposed to reverence it.  
<sup>in violence</sup>  
<sup>we attempt to remove</sup>  
~~it~~ wherever ~~this~~ is ~~the~~, igno-  
 rance, or ~~error~~, or to expose vice, and  
 error, we must produce confusion  
 before we can produce order. Chaos  
 was created before our globe. The  
~~twelve~~ apostles were ~~were~~ all

~~They exert a most pernicious influence  
upon them, for they corrupt the whole  
heart. They moreover defeat their design,  
for sooner or later they are ~~soon~~ detected  
and exposed, and the persons who practise  
them mixt with the lowest of the world.~~

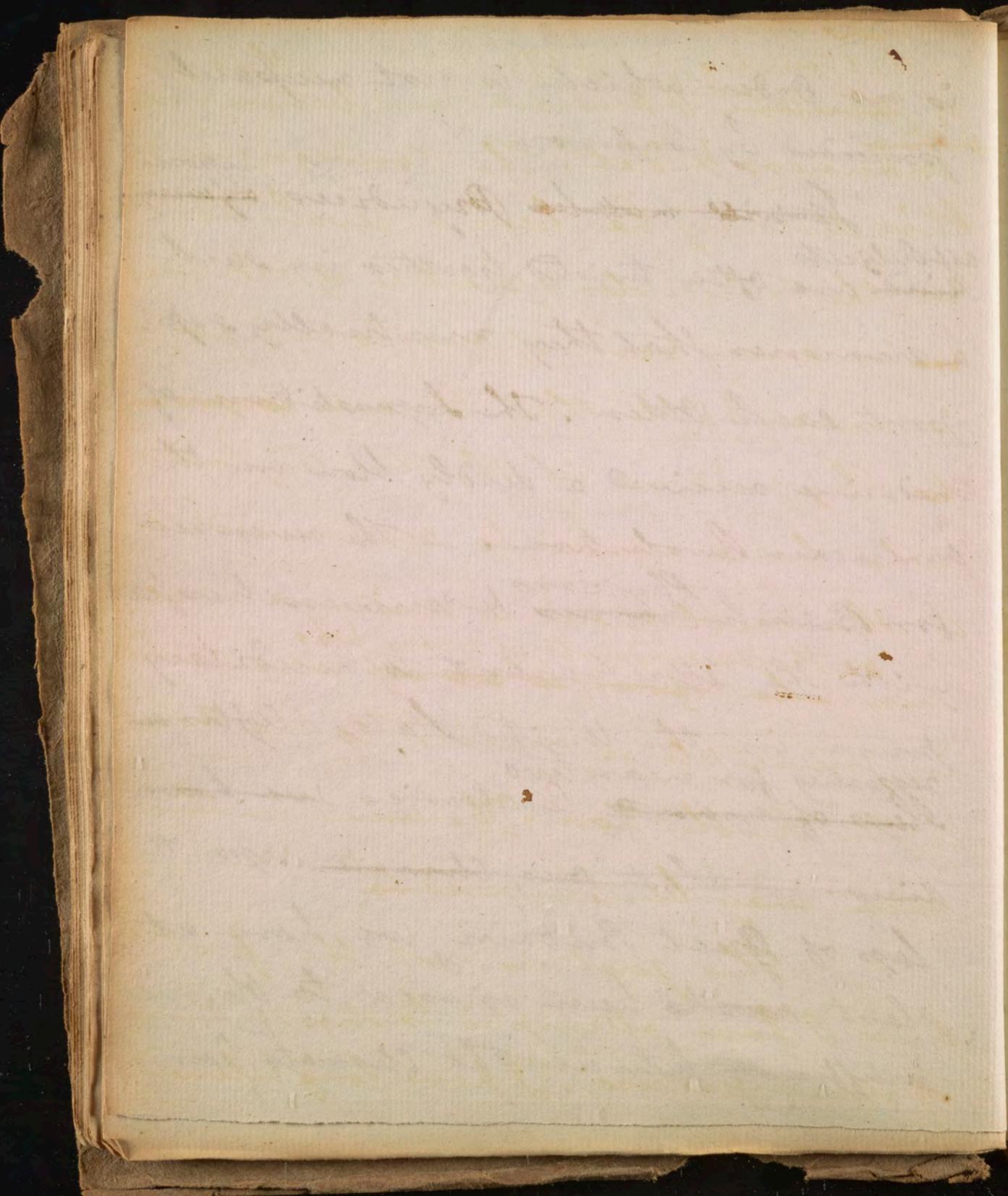
consists  
✓ The Science of Agriculture, in nothing  
but ~~the~~ disorganization. The plough,  
the Spade, and the hoe, are the <sup>instrument</sup> means  
of by which the farmer ~~decomposes~~  
disorganizes the surface & bowels of  
the Earth, and even

Disorganizers. They overthrow the corrupt systems of heathen philosophy by turning the "world upside downwards". The Reformers in the 15<sup>th</sup> century followed this disorganizing example. In short nature herself is a great Disorganizer. ~~The~~ Hail, Snow, fire, hurricanes and Earthquakes are the instruments by which she comes on her disorganizing operations. ~~She~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~must~~ <sup>will</sup> be disorganized in the ground ~~seed which produces the plant to die~~ so as apparently to die. ~~The~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~ground~~ <sup>is thereby disorganized in</sup> order to produce a plant. To man, this is no good which is not produced by evil, and in ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> morals, ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> physical world Government, and Science there

v The change in the human mind,

is no Order which is not necessarily  
preceded by Confusion. ✓

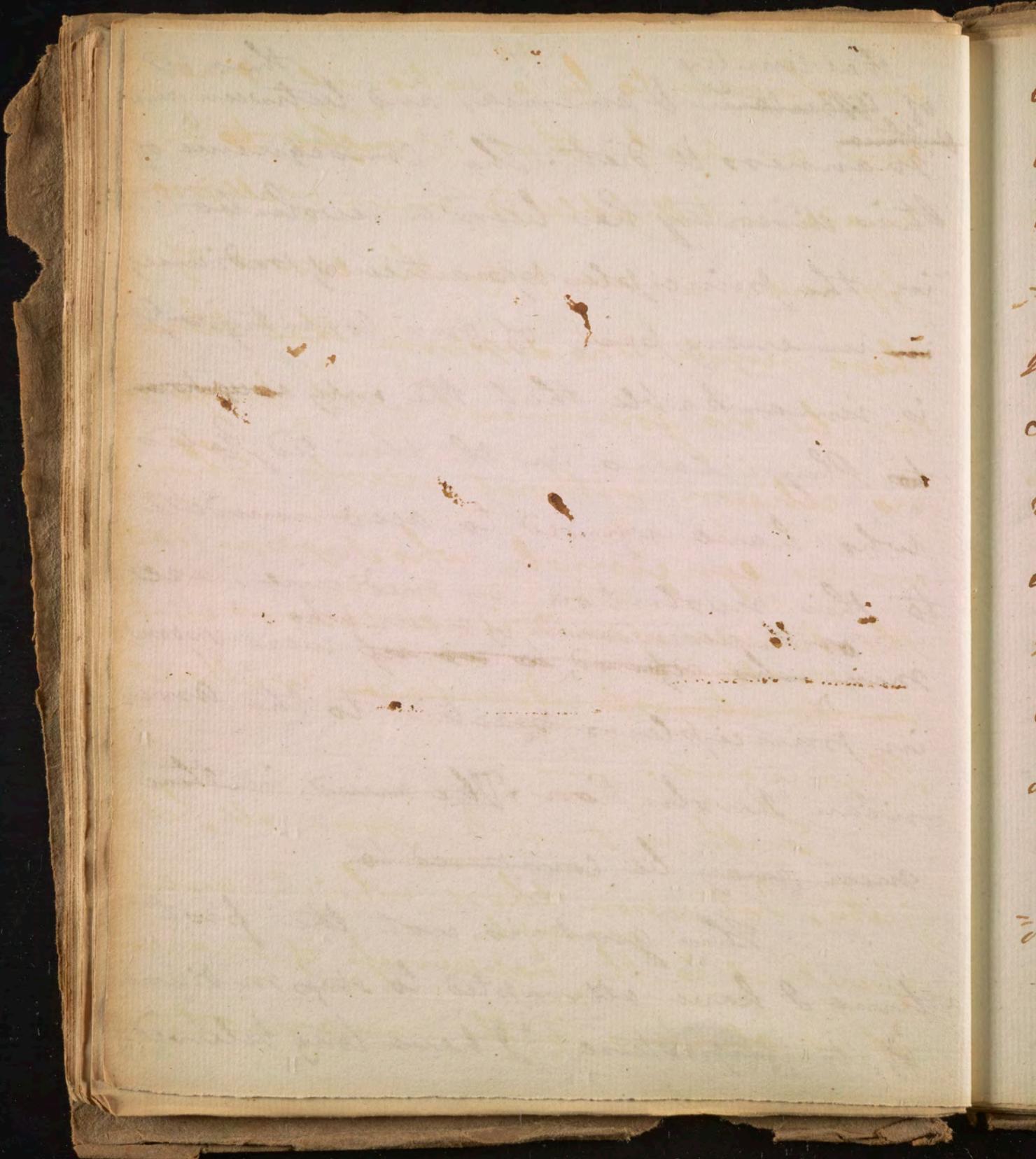
~~It will not be~~ Prejudices <sup>upon</sup> of any  
kind are often twisted together in such  
a manner that they mutually sup-  
port each other. The superstition of  
medicine received a deadly blow in the  
American Revolution. — The reverence  
for British <sup>Physicians</sup> ~~names~~ & Universities fell,  
with the attachment to hereditary  
power in the United States. After a  
reposing for near two  
~~Peys of record~~ Centuries we have  
discovered that ~~our~~ Climate upon the  
top of Great Britain, we have at  
last ~~books~~ been caused to observe  
a difference between the climate & seasons



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that Country, 27. their &  
of Britain & America, and between our  
~~& China~~ manners & diet. The consequence of  
this discovery has been a revolution  
in the principles & practice of medicine,  
in every part of ~~ours~~ Country. It  
is remarkable that the only ~~countries~~  
to Physicians in the United States  
who have refused to accommodate  
to this revolution in medicine, are  
~~or the descendants of men who~~  
~~men who opposed to us~~ were opposed  
in principle or practice to the Amer-  
ican Revolution. ~~The mind in those~~  
~~men may be composed to~~

This gent: is not the first  
time I have attempted to strip medicine  
of its imposture. I have long believed



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our Science to be a rational one,  
and as such that it ~~ought~~ <sup>may</sup> be  
made intelligible to men of all pro-  
fessions. — We pity the errors of  
those people who suppose that there  
can be no government <sup>out</sup> with Kings, &  
no religion without priests. They  
are as ignorantly who suppose that  
the Science of Medicine cannot exist  
~~with all its~~ ~~in its utmost advantages~~ without  
Physicians. —

Truth is simple upon all sub-  
jects, but upon those which are  
essential to the <sup>general</sup> happiness of man  
it is obvious to the meanest

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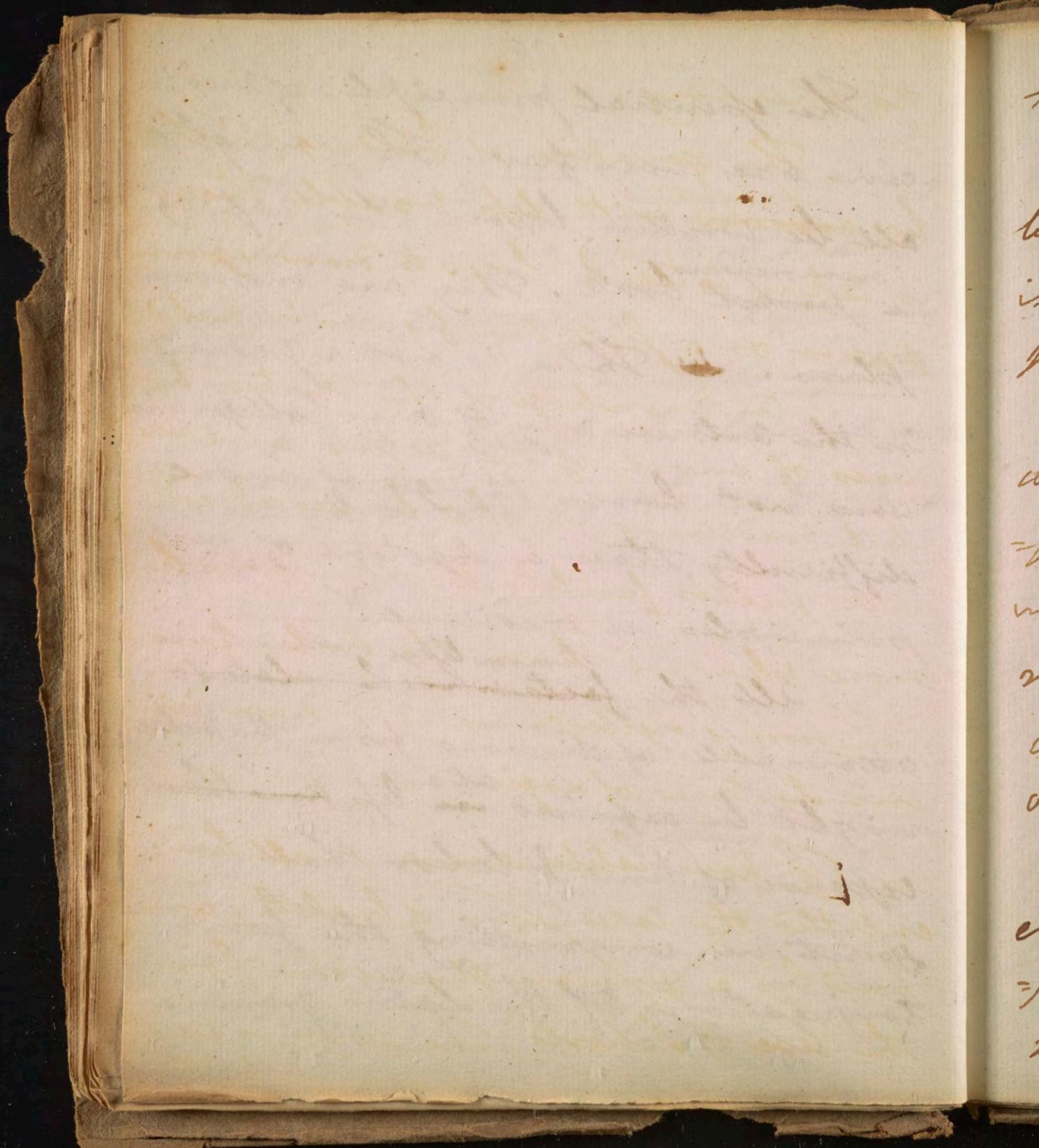
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capacities. Where is the man that cannot be taught to cultivate grain,  
so and where is the woman that cannot be taught to make that grain into bread? and shall the means of preserving our health by the culture & preparation of aliment be so simple, and yet the means of restoring it when lost, be so obtuse as to require years of study to discover & apply them? — To suppose that this <sup>to be</sup> is the case, is to deny Goodness to the Supreme Being, or to believe that like man he acts without Unity & System in his works. —

V all the morbid effects of heat &  
cold, of intemperance in eating and  
drinking, or in the exercises of the  
body & mind might be caught with  
as much ease  
~~more easily than~~ as the multiplication  
table.

The essential principles of medicine are very few. They might all be written upon the leaf of a memorandum book. They are moreover plain. ¶ There is not a graduate in the Arts in any of our Colleges who does not know things of more difficulty, than a system of just principles in medicine.

All the ~~facts which~~<sup>knowledge, which is</sup> attainable of diseases from the pulse, might be acquired ~~in a~~<sup>at a</sup> less time than the expense of time & labor than is spent in committing the four conjugations of the Latin grammar.

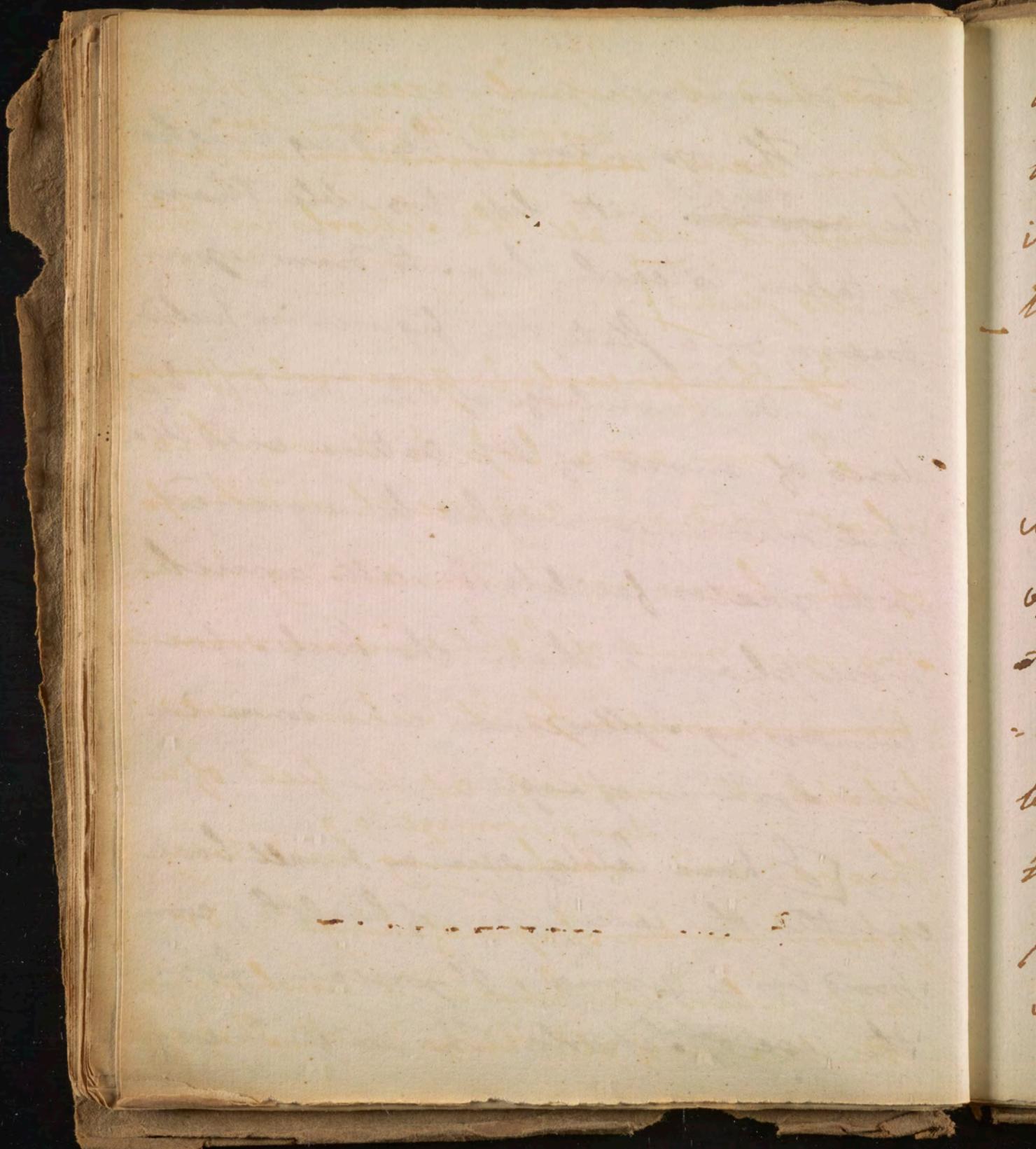


to memory. —

The operation of bleeding might  
~~be acquired~~<sup>tought</sup> with less trouble than  
 is taken to teach boys to draw upon  
 paper, or a slate, the figures in Euclid.

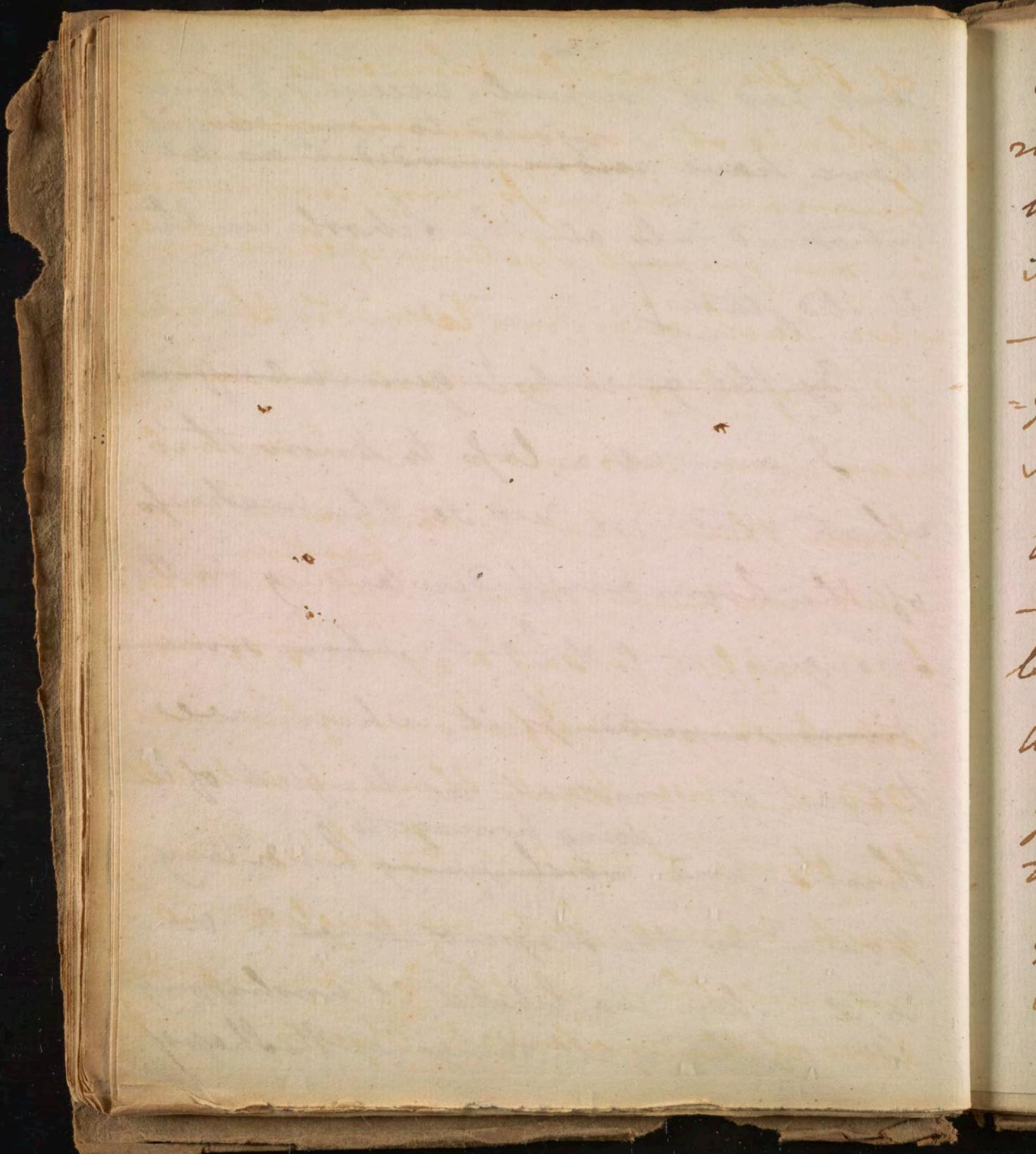
A knowledge of the Virtues & P-  
 doses of most of the active and nox-  
 -ful medicines might be acquired  
 with greater facility, & with much  
 more pleasure than the Rules for  
 composing Syllogisms laid down in  
 our Systems of Logic. —

~~I have lately seen a small book  
 entitled the Catechism of Health, com-  
 posed by a German Physician for  
 the Use of Schools. The design is ex-  
 -cellent,~~

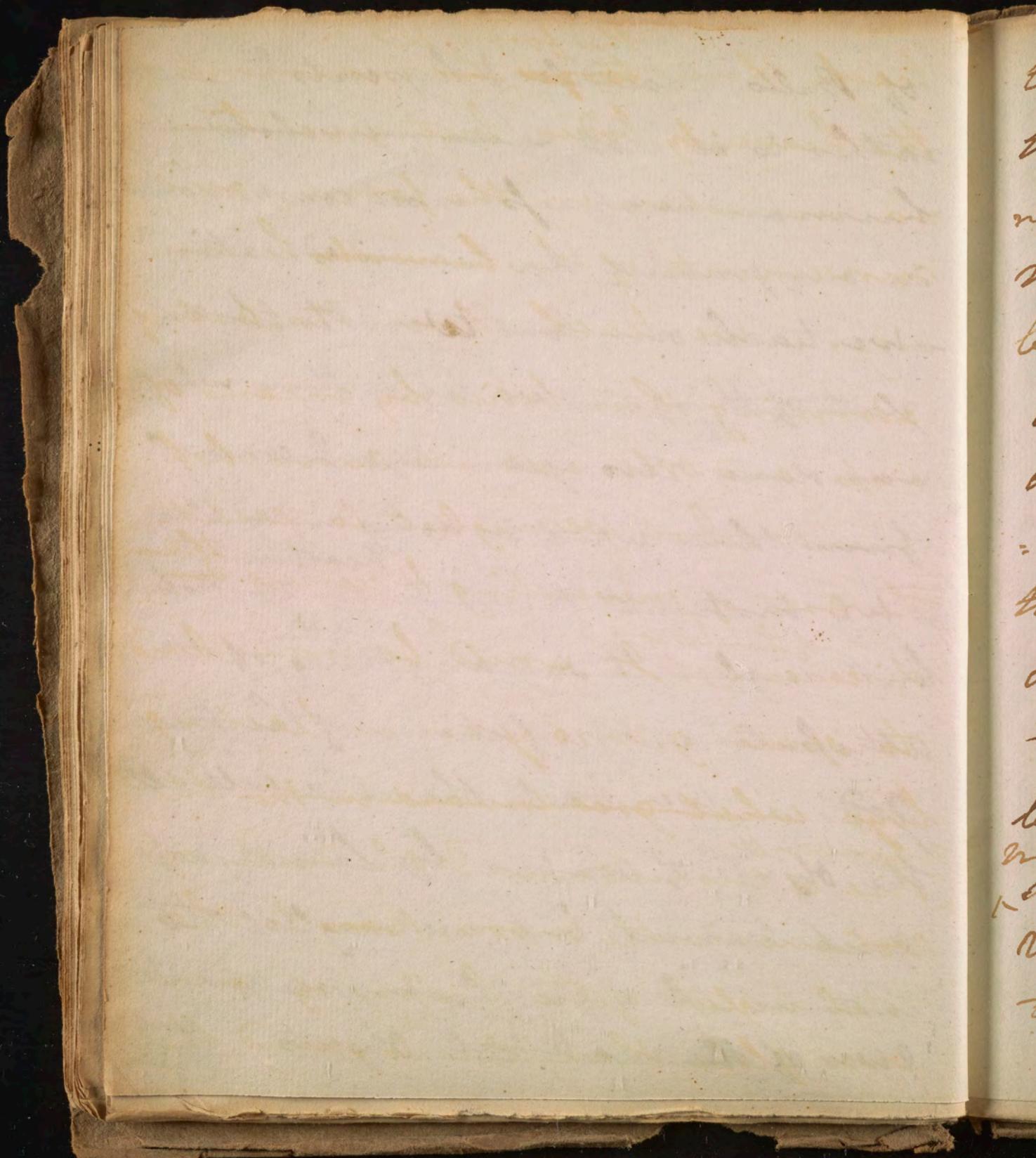


and had it properly executed, I should  
have <sup>wished</sup> recommended it as a  
introduced into all the Schools in the  
United States.] —

By the great & general diffusion  
I am at a loss to know thro'  
what medium we see the weakness  
of the human Understanding in the  
strongest point of light. I have some-  
times suspected Is it, when we  
behold it prostrate at the feet of a  
throne, and <sup>doing homage to</sup> ~~worshipping~~ hereditary  
power? ~~in the shape of Kings?~~ or  
is it, when we behold it worshipping  
the Creator of all things in the shape

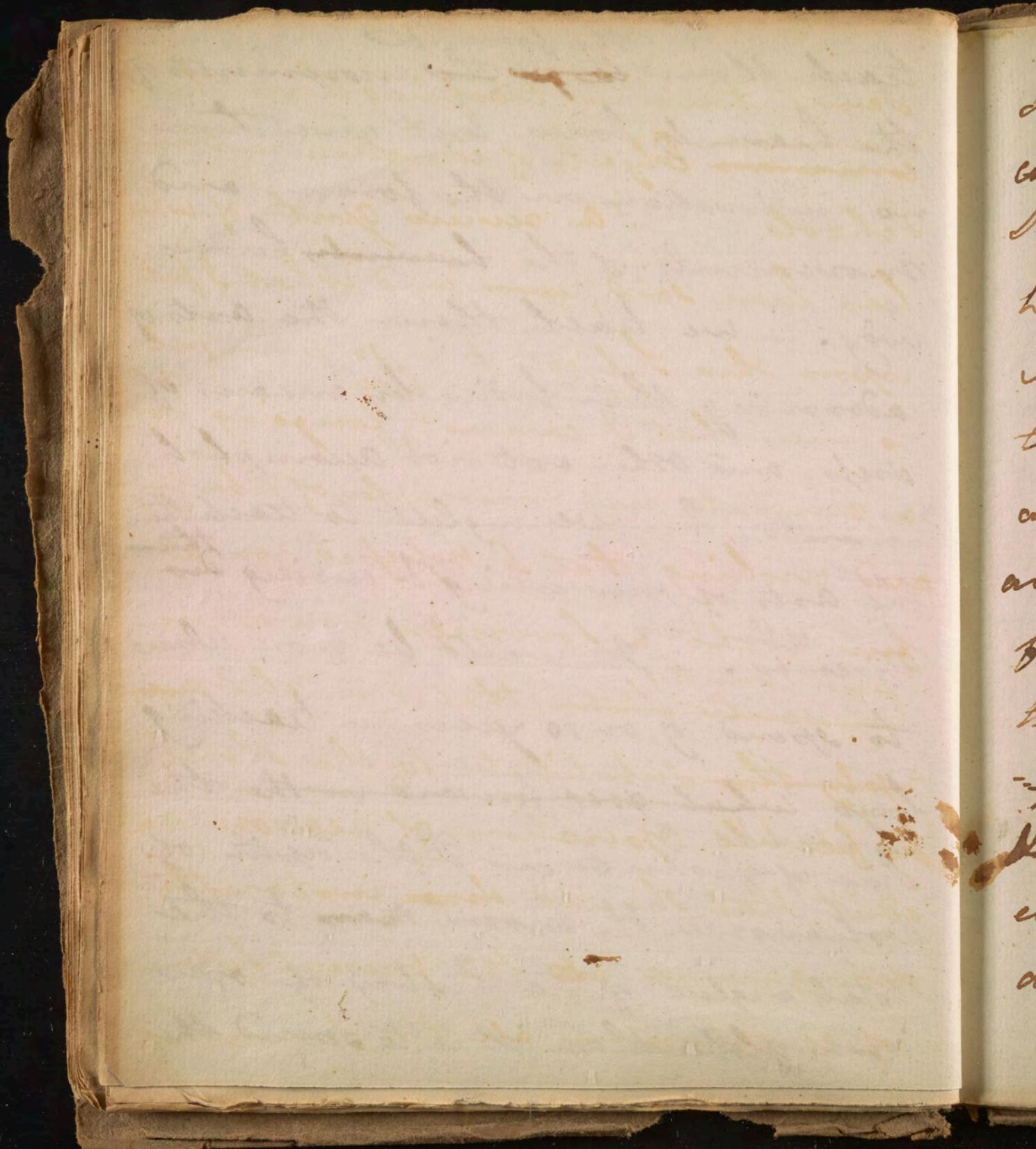


of Bulls, Crocodiles & Serpents? — or rather is it not ~~when we behold~~ human weakness most conspicuous in our present Systems of education? — we teach our Sons Tatoids to the neglect of things. we teach them what was done 2000 years ago, & conceal from them what is doing every day. — we instruct them in the mythology, but neglect to say anything <sup>therein</sup> of the attributes and perfections of the true God. — we teach them to call all the objects of nature by Latin, and Greek names, but we neglect to instruct them in the properties, & uses of the material Objects. we

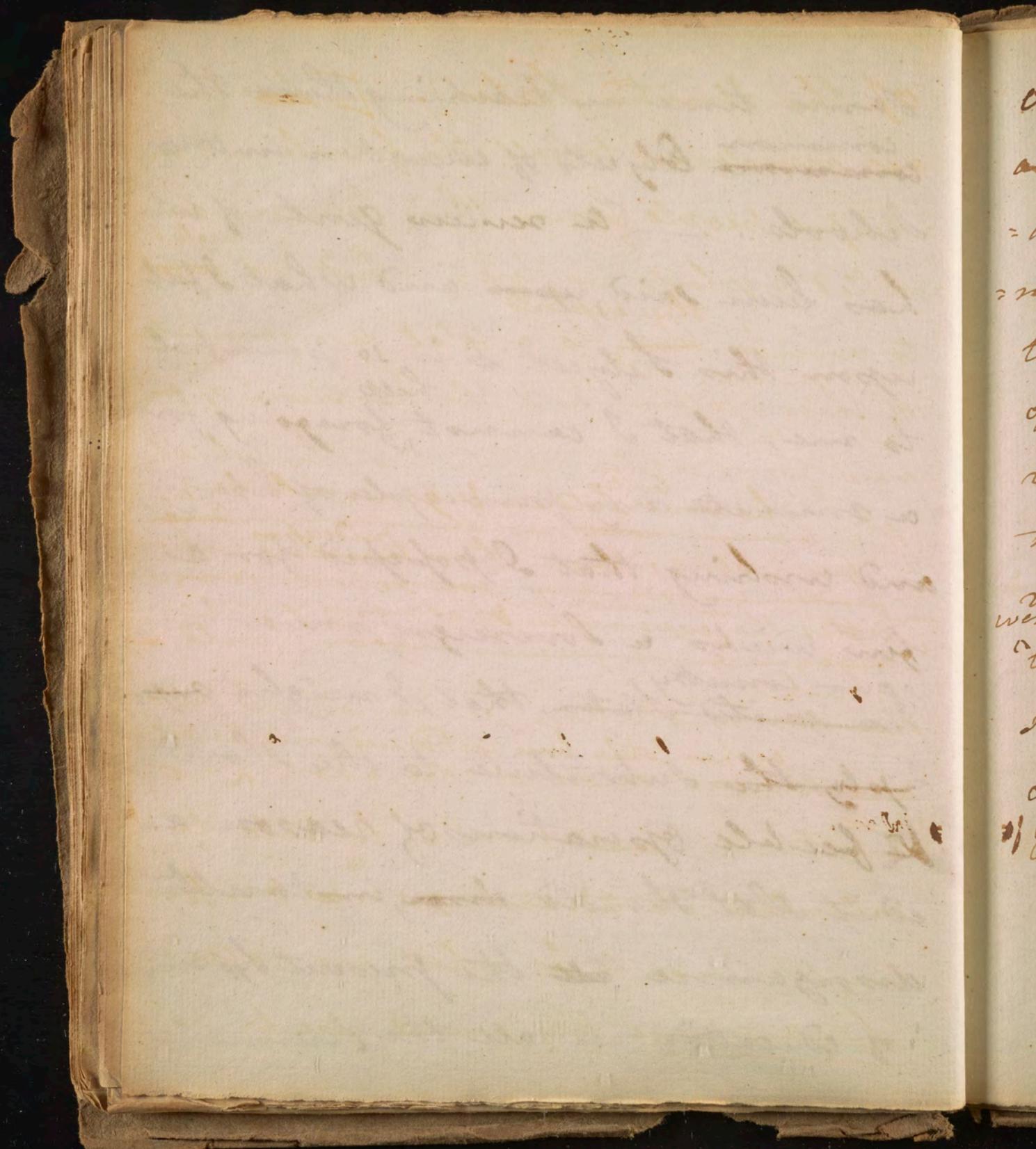


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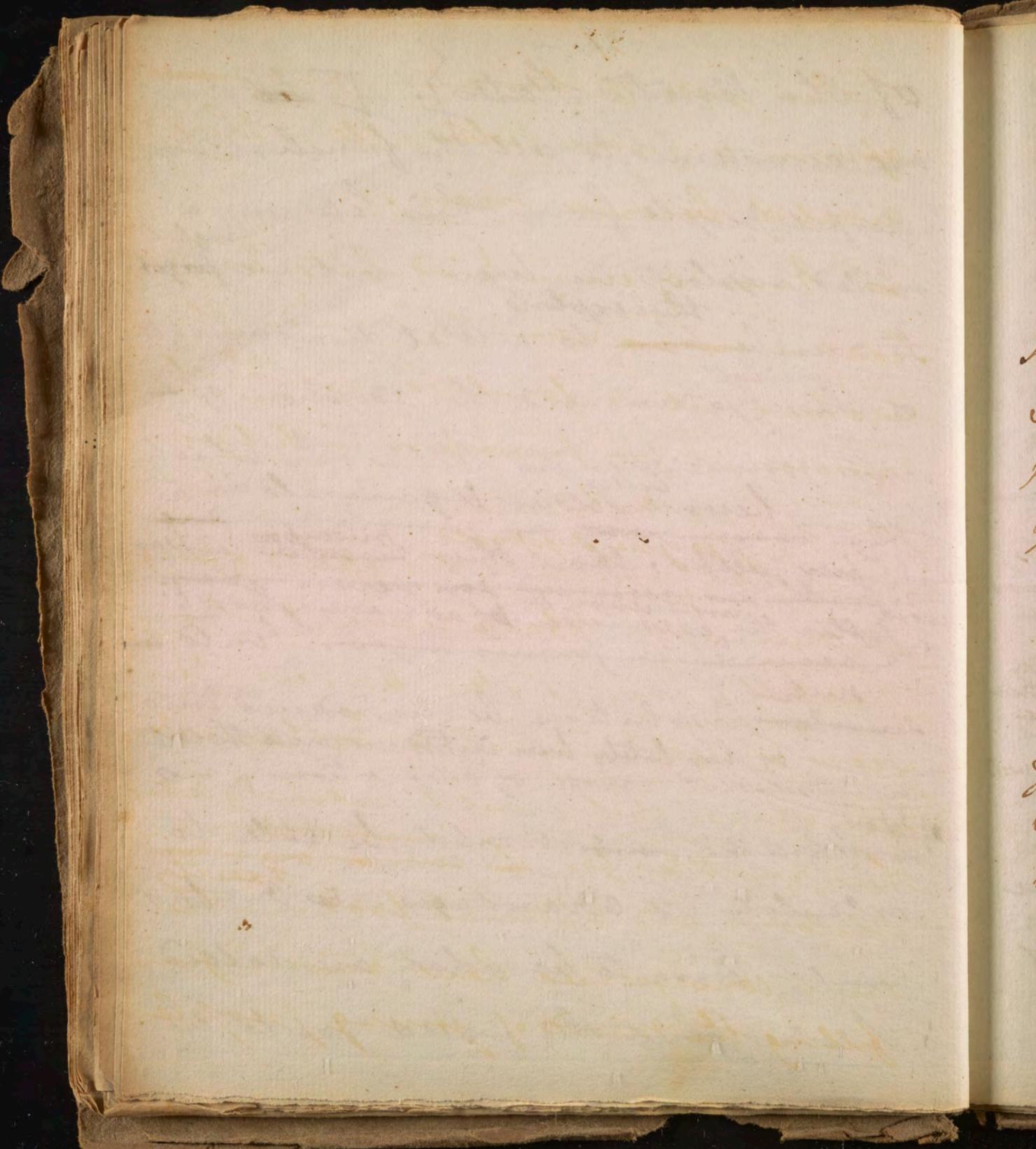
teach them ~~to~~ <sup>the form &</sup> the movements of  
the heavenly bodies, but give them  
no instruction in the forms, and  
movements of the heavenly human  
body. — we teach them the arts of  
adorning their bodies by means of  
dres, and other exterior accomplish-  
ments, but we neglect to teach them  
the arts of preventing & curing ~~the~~  
<sup>of their bodies</sup> diseases <sup>not</sup>. — It would <sup>be</sup> more absurd  
to spend 9. or 10 years in teaching  
boys what goes forward in the the  
number &  
size of mountains & the depth of  
volcanos in the moon, than to the  
total neglect of the history of our  
own globe, than it is to spend the



same time in teaching them the  
~~common~~ Objects of education in our  
Schools. — [A review qnt: of what  
has been said, ~~upon~~ and what I feel  
upon this Subject & is so painful  
to me, that I cannot <sup>help</sup>, foregoing for  
a minute my principles of liberty,  
and wishing that I possessed for a  
few weeks a sovereign power in  
~~our country~~  
~~the United States~~, that I might sup-  
ply the substitute to the slow  
& feeble operations of reason, an  
edit that should ~~soon~~ instantly  
disorganize all the present systems  
of education in all the Seminaries



of the United States). — ~~But~~ we  
 are accustomed to call the French, a won-  
 derful people from their late unpa-  
 ralled exploits in war, but we <sup>neglect</sup>  
~~forget~~ <sup>these exploits</sup> to ascribe ~~them~~ to a total disorganization  
<sup>ancient</sup> of their system, and the adoption of a  
 new principles in tactics, by which  
~~they have more~~ <sup>better</sup> become soldiers & generals in a  
 few weeks, than their ~~predecessors~~ in war  
~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~as required for seven years.~~  
~~after the instruction & experience of as many years.~~  
~~to acquire in former ages.~~ Could a  
 such  
~~similar~~ revolution be introduced into  
 as has lately been introduced into the art  
 our present mode of education & no  
 War,  
 Arithmetic and would be able to  
 calculate its advantages. Our sons  
 would cease to be what are called  
Scholars, but they would rise to a



higher grade of character, and would aspire a more noble title - they would become men.

• Error of every kind acts as a sedative ~~now~~ upon the mind. It weakens all its faculties, and thereby prepares it for Imposture in Religion Government & Science. —

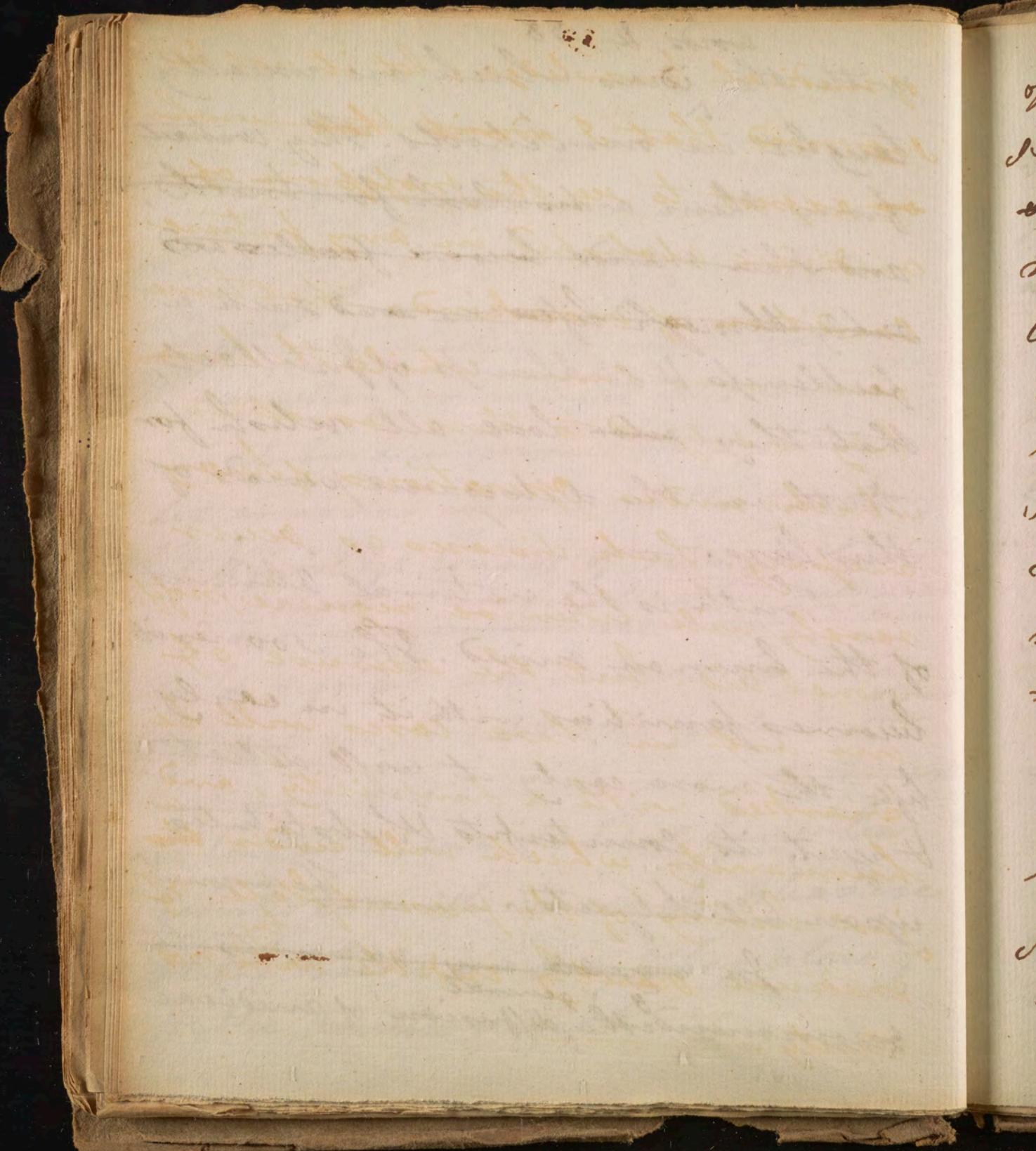
<sup>do you suppose</sup>  
What <sup>^</sup> would be the effects of feeding children upon tobacco leaves, & whisky, until they were sixteen or seventeen years of age? — Such a loathsome & unnatural diet would certainly destroy their appetites for the ~~common~~ <sup>natural</sup> & healthy wholesome and natural food. — The same consequences have arisen from filling the minds of young people

V of truth whether it <sup>be</sup> an original  
perception, or received at second hand,  
is always accompanied with pleasure.  
Let education consist in the first elements  
of knowledge consist of sensible objects,  
~~and a revolution will soon create~~  
schools, and Schoolmasters will cease  
to be regarded with aversion & hatred  
by ~~our~~ young people. The fiddle, & <sup>other</sup> instruments  
of punishment & disgrace will  
be laid aside, and the School house be  
resorted to with as much pleasure  
as the theatre, or any other place of  
public amusement. —

with the ideas which are usually taught in our Schools. They contract from them a ~~diondise~~ for truth, and their minds become feeble and sickly through life ~~—~~ and such a feebleness & sickliness of intellect, that they soon lose all relish for truth in the subsequent periods of their lives. —

Truth is the natural aliment of the human mind. The sooner it becomes familiar with it in early life, the more easily it will detect & reject its counterfeits & substitutes upon all subjects. — <sup>The discovery</sup>

In ~~my~~ <sup>of general</sup> my attempts to recommend the diffusion of medical



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of medical knowledge, let it not be  
supposed that I ~~admit that~~ wish  
~~or expect to see the profession of~~  
medicine abolished in any future  
condition of mankind. That time  
can never come while the human  
body is subject to those casualties,  
which under operations of surgery  
are necessary. Such diseases as occur  
rarely will likewise require prof-  
essional aid, but the exercise of  
our art in these cases will be  
marked with a simplicity, and  
humanity which will under the  
just history of the present state of  
medicine scarcely credible with pos-  
turity. —————

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and I thought of those Estuaries  
as we drove along the coast.

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There is a man who ~~dines~~ <sup>is drawn in</sup> carriage ~~with~~ by four horses who goes from house to house ~~in~~ in London just before the usual hours of dining, & receives half a guinea for dicing a bowl of sallet. In the same light will posterity view the practice of giving <sup>a</sup> ~~the Physicians who now receive~~ a guinea for every time he comes in his carriage to prescribe a little aperient water, or spirits of wine: desirous to cure a trifling ~~told~~ <sup>on</sup> fever.

In a more cultivated state of human Reason, Physicians will sleep, and walk and look like other men, ~~and~~ They will then consider

V Diplomas will be torn to pieces  
in Order to procure the splendid ribbands  
from which are attached to them  
for the Amusement of our Children.

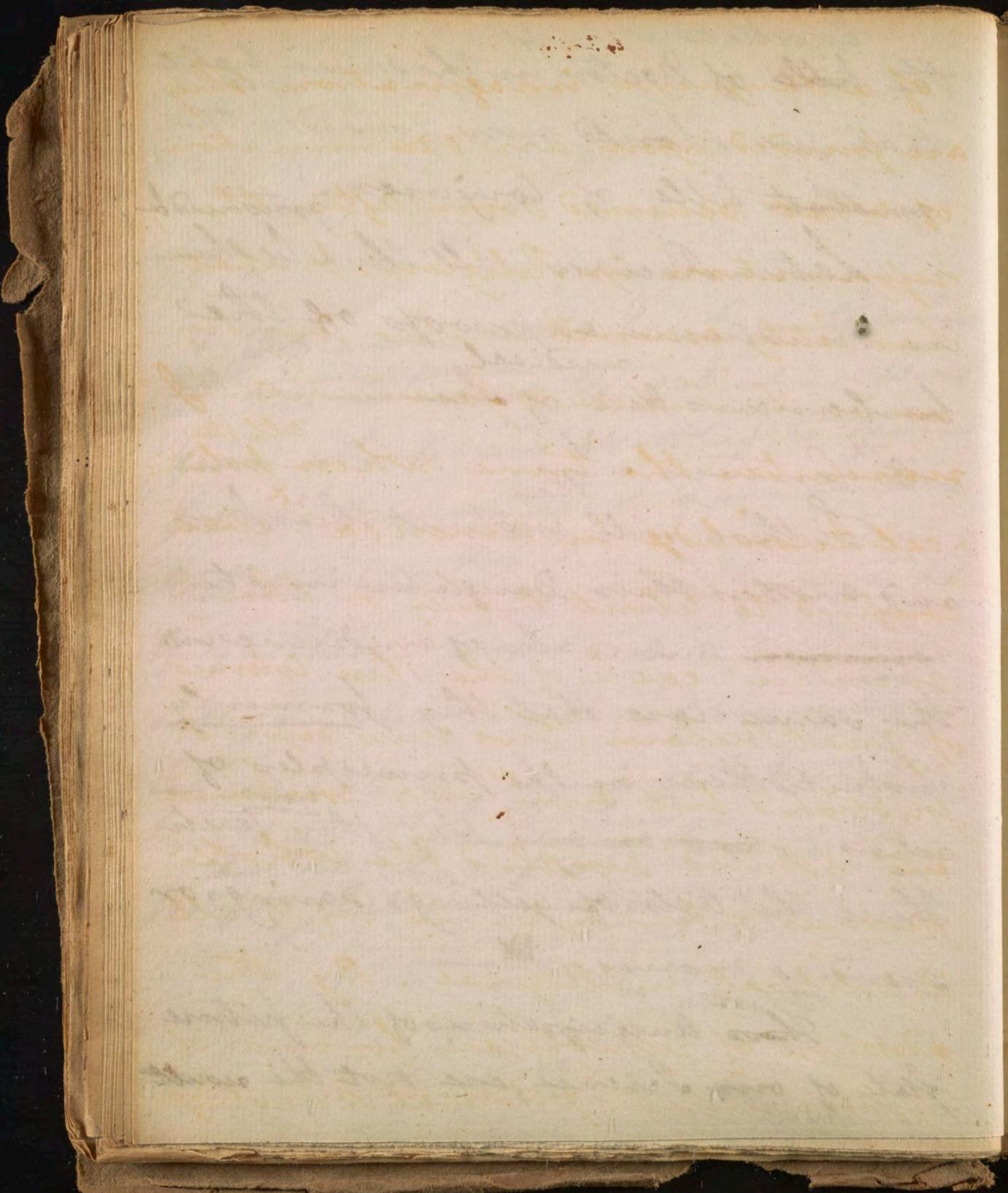
Wealth will then cease to be the rewards  
of Quackery & imposture in medicine,  
and for when mankind are <sup>made</sup> instructed  
incapable of judging of talents &  
knowledge in <sup>Physicians</sup> Medicine, they will  
<sup>those only who possess</sup> prefer Skill, and integrity.

appellation  
the title of Doctor in the same light  
that we should now consider the  
epithet title of Conjurer.

Latin Recipes will then be shown  
in museums as proofs of the  
barbarous state of <sup>medical</sup> Science in the  
18<sup>th</sup> Century. ✓

Fathers will instruct their Sons,  
and mothers their Daughters in the  
~~common~~ principles of medicine with  
the same care that they formerly  
instructed them in the principles of  
religion, ~~and~~ and that they <sup>now</sup> teach  
them the arts of getting, saving & or  
spending money. ☈

<sup>These</sup> anticipations of the future  
state of our Science, are not the result



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of a sanguine imagination. They  
are founded upon an examination  
of what occurred soon after the  
reformation in Religion, & what  
has lately occurred in this Country  
as in the Science of Government. I  
remember the time when political  
knowledge in America, was  
confined to about twenty or thirty  
men in each of the then Colonies  
of Great Britain. Two newspapers  
published but one <sup>in the</sup> week contained  
city of Philad<sup>a</sup> supplied the whole  
Province of Pennsylvania with all  
its political intelligence. By the  
adoption of republican forms of  
Government, political knowledge

V May the time it is in your power  
qmt. to quicken the movements of  
time and <sup>to</sup> accelerate a change equally  
favourable to human happiness in  
the state of medicine. — I have not been  
~~so long not altogether unsuccessful~~  
idle in my attempts to bring about  
such a change in our <sup>profession</sup> science, but  
the labors of my life have will probably  
end in nothing more than laying the  
~~corner stone~~ of a foundation for the  
Revolution I have ~~been~~ anticipated.  
— So you I commit the arduous, &  
benignent undertaking. — may your  
labors be more successful than mine  
have been, and <sup>your</sup> rewards for them be  
much greater. I leave this day con-  
tributed

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has become <sup>so</sup> universally diffused,  
that our women & <sup>children</sup> now  
possess more of it than was possessed  
by many of our ~~older~~ legislators  
before the revolution. The Bar rooms  
of taverns, the tradesman shops, the  
harvest fields, and the great roads  
~~now~~, <sup>in every part of the United States now</sup> regulated with the rights of man  
~~and~~ <sup>with the praises</sup> of liberty or of  
~~and the blessings~~ <sup>of</sup> our excellent  
Constitution. — V

gent: my business in this chair is  
to teach the Institutes of medicine and  
the practice of Physic by <sup>explaining the</sup> means of such  
courses and applying remedies to such  
diseases as shall occur in our hospital  
in the course of the ensuing winter.  
~~In doing this, I shall~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~do~~ ~~it~~

a mite towards upping ~~and~~ the  
work which is before you, by endea-  
vouring to remove out of your way  
part of the rubbish which has over-  
-ded the fabric of medicine. —

X. The 3<sup>d</sup> will embrace what is called  
Therapeutics, <sup>that is</sup> or the principles Theory of  
the Operation of Medicines, or in other  
words, the Philosophy of the *materia medica*. —

<sup>onward</sup>  
V. the whole course I shall deliver  
at the hospital, and in this room,  
occasional remarks upon every case  
for which I shall prescribe.

These Objects of our Course will divide themselves into 2 parts. The 1<sup>st</sup> Physiology will ~~embrae~~ <sup>or the actions of the body & mind</sup> Physiology in which I include the operations of the body & mind in a healthy state. & The 2<sup>nd</sup> will consist of what is called Pathology ~~in which~~ in a morbid state. These will include I shall include ~~too~~ an account of the remote-predisposing, exciting, and proximate causes of diseases; The 1<sup>st</sup> will include the history of the symptoms & cure of diseases. ~~I shall confine myself chiefly to such diseases as occur in our hospital, but as far as~~ <sup>all</sup> diseases are related, or rather as there is ~~one~~ in their causes or cure, I shall illustrate ~~by~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~affection~~ <sup>in explaining a part,</sup> ~~to illustrate them, the whole of them~~. During

Or to give it a new arrangement  
in your minds

The business before one Gent: will  
be ~~arduous~~  
~~difficult~~: inasmuch as I shall two  
difficulties to contend with - viz: to  
desire you of much of the knowledge  
you have brought ~~with you~~ to  
the University, and 2<sup>o</sup> to supply <sup>in part,</sup>  
the place of that knowledge by mere  
principles in medicine. ~~I hope like~~  
~~the~~ I know from experience how the  
struggles which will take place in  
minds before you will consent to ~~see~~  
~~part~~ give up ancient opinions <sup>change</sup> upon  
medical subjects: ~~and~~ I know too the  
~~prejudices~~ ~~in medicine~~. ~~I mean to take no~~  
did I mean to take no advantages  
of you in the conflict which is to take  
place between <sup>your present</sup> former systems of medi-  
cine,

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and the One I purpose to teach you.  
- Learnin my principles thoroughly.  
~~Take~~ Believe nothing that I shall say,  
that is not capable of demonstration.  
In a word - Govt: - think for yourselves.



